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Attempt to evade Euro ruling vetoed

Caning call earns rebuke for Shephard

By Philip Webster and John O'Leary

JOHN MAJOR was facing a revolt by rightwingers last night after reproaching Gillian Shephard for suggesting that schools could bring back the cane.

Several backbenchers said that they would back an education Bill amendment to restore corporal punishment in state schools, even though Mrs Shephard had to tell the Commons that the Government could not support it.

The deep split over the issue was exposed after the Education Secretary described corporal punishment as a very useful deterrent. Her pronouncement on BBC Radio was swiftly followed by a telephone call from the Prime Minister advising her against pressing the idea any further.

Tory MPs hoping to use the new Bill to give parents the right to consent to the caning of their children, bypassing a 1982 European Court of Human Rights ruling, were angry that Mr Major had scuppered their move.

Mrs Shephard was aware of their views when she made her controversial statement yesterday morning, and she was later cheered by Tory backbenchers in the Commons when she repeated her support for the cane. She admitted, however, that Mr Major took a different personal view and said that while



amendments might be tabled seeking to restore corporal punishment "we won't be giving them government backing".

James Pawsy, chairman of the Tory backbench education committee, nevertheless made plain his backing for a change to the law to allow parents to consent to corporal punishment in the new home-school contracts. He said that many parents would rather their children were caned than excluded from school.

The episode delighted the Labour leadership and Tony Blair mocked Mr Major for "contradicting and reprimanding" Mrs Shephard

from his mobile phone on a train. But for Conservative MPs it was the latest sign of uncertainty in the Government over how to respond to the morality debate sparked by Frances Lawrence.

The extraordinary sequence of events began when Mrs Shephard was asked on the Today programme about suggestions that she and Michael Howard backed corporal punishment. "There is a lot of support for bringing back caning," she said. Although there was no proposal in her Bill, "I have no doubt there will be people in the House who might wish to bring it forward as the Bill proceeds through Parliament."

Two hours later, Mrs Shephard was interrupted in the middle of a speech while opening a sixth form at a Surrey school to take a call from Mr Major, who reminded her that "settled government policy" was against any return to the cane.

Downing Street said that the Prime Minister had telephoned Mrs Shephard and "in a good conversation" asked her "to make sure the position is very clear". The spokesman said there were a range of views in the Government over caning. "But the Government is not persuaded of its practicality. It is not going to put it in the Bill."

Even if the law were changed, schools would be unlikely to revive caning, since all the main teacher and parent groups opposed it.

John Sutton, general secretary of the Secondary Heads Association, said: "The world has moved on since the mid-1980s when caning was abolished. Bringing it back would open teachers to legal accusations of assault. It would also raise the question of discrimination - whether it would be brought back just for boys or for girls as well."

David Hart, of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "Re-introducing it would leave teachers vulnerable to action for damages under European law. There is also the danger that it would be abused in a minority of cases."

The National Union of Teachers said: "Teachers do not want to be involved in legalised assault on children."

Britain was the last European country to abolish corporal punishment in state schools in 1986; only a handful of independent schools keep the cane.

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Lord Hindlip, Christie's chairman, points during yesterday's auction in Vienna

Scramble for Holocaust art

By Roger Boyes

RECORDS crashed yesterday as private collectors, museums and Holocaust survivors bid fiercely for art works that symbolise Austria's neglected Jewish past.

Rarely has there been a sale so heavy with emotion and so politically charged: the 8,000 works of art, looted by the Nazis, represent a slice of prewar Jewish life and the shame of postwar Austrian authorities who made only tepid attempts to trace owners.

The money raised in the auction in Vienna will go mainly to Jewish charities. Some will help non-Jewish victims of the Holocaust.

The first sign that this was no ordinary auction came with Lot 31. An oil painting - roses, tulips and poppies in a glass vase - by the 17th-century master Abraham Mignon was expected to reach \$74,000 (£46,000). It went to a London dealer, Richard Green, for \$15 million (£930,000). By the end of the first session yesterday, Christie's announced that they had already netted more

than \$5 million, the total expected for two days of bidding. "It is clear that this is a very emotional sale," said a spokeswoman for Christie's in Vienna, which is not charging commission. "The results are reflecting its tremendous poignancy as well as the strong artistic significance."

The biggest sale was expected to be completed about midnight: a rare painting by the Russian artist Aleksandr



Abraham Mignon's oil, which sold for £930,000

Archipenko. Dealers said that a major Jewish institution was likely to win the bidding.

Peter Noever, Director of Vienna's Museum for Applied Art, gave voice to some of the feelings about the sale: "This is not a moment for joy. These are the heirlooms of the dead, the expelled and the forgotten - stolen art from stolen lives."

Jewish community leaders in particular were unhappy about the way Austrian authorities have dragged their feet in the matter for more than four decades.

The Allies, who found the hoard in a saltmine, urged Austria to find the owners and return the works, which include sketches, sculptures, rare books and coins as well as fine oil paintings. Instead, most of the collection was borrowed by Austrian museums or stored. Eventually, lobbying pushed Austria towards the auction. Franz Vranitzky, the Chancellor, set the new tone with a pre-auction speech apologising to the Jewish people.

Swift's Last Orders wins close-run Booker race

By Dalya Alberge, Arts Correspondent

GRAHAM SWIFT, a novelist who has expressed regret about the "racehorse element" of competitions, last night won the 1996 Booker Prize, the literary world's £20,000 answer to the Grand National.

Although his novel *Last Orders*, a story of a bizarre day's outing, was the hot favourite, there had been rows between the judges. Their chairman, Carmen Callil, co-founder of the feminist publisher Virago and a critic of the male-dominated publishing industry, objected to his book. She was battling for Margaret Atwood's *Alias Grace*.

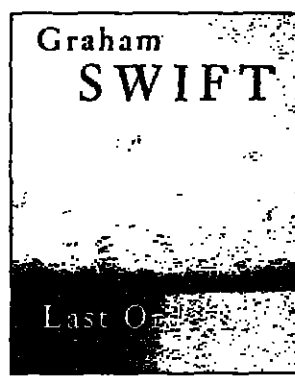
One source said: "Carmen must be the worst chairperson to have. You need to be objective and diplomatic. She is the most unobjective and undiplomatic person in the history of the world."

However, an insider said it had been a close-run thing. The choice was between Swift, Atwood and Seamus Deane (*Reading in the Dark*). The others - Beryl Bainbridge (*Every Man for Himself*), Rohinton Mistry (*A Fine Balance*) and Shena Mackay (*The Orchard on Fire*) - were ruled out very early in yesterday's final judging session. "Start of the trouble," he said, "was that the judges read those shortlisted works two or three times. Some were thinner on the third reading."

BookTrack, which has monitored sales of the six shortlisted novels in more than 600 bookshops, reported on Saturday that *Last Orders* had sold only three copies in that week. Swift, born in 1949 and living in Wandsworth, was shortlisted for the Booker for *Waterland*, described as the finest British novel of the 1980s. His work has been translated into more than 20 languages. He regards *Last Orders* as his strongest yet.



Graham Swift and book of the moment



The judges eventually concluded that it was "beautifully reflective of this country at the moment," the insider said.

In a formal statement, Ms Callil said: "Choosing the winner was torture, but we eventually settled on *Last Orders*, a wonderful book that will give pleasure to thousands of people."

Auberon Waugh, editor of *The Literary Review*, said: "The Swift is not my favourite. It lacks a sense of the ridiculous and humour." But Alastair Niven, literature director of the Arts Council of England, said Swift was "such a intuitive writer."

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Mother's legal action over school closure

By Kathryn Knight

THE mother of Matthew Wilson, the 10-year-old boy whose bad behaviour led to the closure of a primary school, said yesterday that she was seeking a judicial review over the headmaster's actions.

Pamela Cliffe claimed her son was being used as a political pawn by unions, politicians and teachers. The gates of Manton Junior School in Worksop, Nottinghamshire, were closed after Mr Bill Skelley, the head, decided not to allow Matthew into lessons.

Mrs Cliffe's solicitor, Steve Williams, said his client had come to him in frustration. "She said that Matthew and herself had done everything asked of them by the teachers, the unions and the local education authority. Matthew is being used as a political football."

Mr Williams added that an action would definitely be lodged which might lead to the school and headmaster being sued.

Parents taking their children into the neighbouring infants' school all supported the headmaster's action and blamed the governors. Bernadette Barass, 38, and mother of 10-year-old Alison, said: "The governors are not willing to give the head of the school the benefit of the doubt. They're not seeing what he's seeing, and if they did their eyes would be opened. The governors appointed this man and now they won't listen to him."

Mr Skelley would not comment yesterday but a spokesman for his union, the NUT, said everyone was "very saddened" by the situation.

Fred Riddell, chairman of Nottingham's education committee, said that the LEA would be meeting the school governors and unions separately today.

Meanwhile, Matthew kicked a football of his own outside his home as he took advantage of what may be the first of many days off school.

Bloodbath on Broadway as Mackintosh sacks Les Mis cast

FROM QUENTIN LETTS
IN NEW YORK

SIR Cameron Mackintosh, the British impresario, has shaken New York's theatre world by sacking almost all the cast of his long-running musical *Les Misérables*.

In what stage lore may come to recall as the Bloodbath on Broadway, Sir Cameron announced radical changes to the decade-old show because it was suffering from "long-run-itis". Nearly all the 37 actors will go, and a new cast will open in March.

The musical's logo of a torn-clothed, smudge-faced wail was, by all accounts, a fair reflection of the scenes in the dressing rooms of Manhattan's

Imperial Theatre after the news was conveyed to the cast on Sunday. They had just performed the matinee when they were called on to the stage and told that the show needed freshening up.

One source said yesterday that there had been "a run on the tissues" immediately after the news was broken and much dabbling of powdered noses. Only one actor in a major part will be retained.

The American branch of Equity, the actors' union, said the move was "unprecedented and very distressing" and promised to help actors to obtain pay-offs, some of which may reach \$17,000 (£10,000).

Productions normally change by

stealth or because performers move on. Never before has a top musical shed its skin in such a manner. Sir Cameron, with his directors Trevor Nunn and John Caird, took the decision as "Les Mis" was preparing for its tenth anniversary on Broadway.

It has been a great success and continues to pack in the audiences, many of them sweet-natured folk from New Jersey and Pennsylvania - New York's equivalent of the blue rinse set who invade London's West End from the home Counties.

The Broadway production has been seen by about six million people and has made good money for its backers, taking \$250 million at the door.

Mr Caird said the sackings were not

to be taken personally - many of the actors were "people I would like to work with again". However, he did not want the musical to "turn into Madame Tussaud's", which was a tendency with long-running shows.

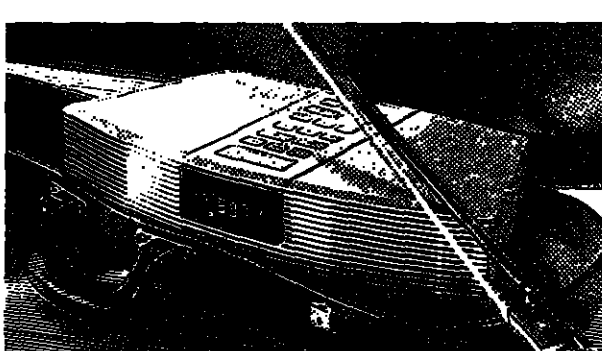
Shock was only one emotion at play in Manhattan's theatre district yesterday. Sir Cameron has two other musicals on Broadway, *Phantom of the Opera* and *Miss Saigon*. They are in their eighth and sixth years respectively, and the misery at "Les Mis" generated cluckings of worried speculation about what might happen next. Sir Cameron is also a co-producer of *Cats*, which seems to have been running since there were Indian canoes on the Hudson.

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Police forces 'must do more' to catch burglars

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE Chief Inspector of Constabulary has told police to work harder to solve domestic burglaries after publishing figures showing that less than a quarter of break-ins are cleared up.

The report, produced by Trevor Morris but published by his successor, David O'Dowd, says there is "considerable room for improvement in the detection of volume crime and burglary".

The figures show wide variations across England and Wales in 1995-96 for burglary and violent crime. No force was found to be performing badly, but very few were

considered to be doing well across every area of the five performance indicators.

The report said there had been an effective and sustained performance in answering 999 calls and reaching incidents. Forces were also replying good levels of satisfaction with the public. Clear-up rates for violent crime were still largely high.

However, only 24 per cent of burglaries were solved despite the fact that many forces are now running campaigns targeting burglary suspects. Humberside Police detected 13 per cent of 17,000 cases and Northumbria also solved the

same proportion of 25,000 cases. Lincolnshire detected 41 per cent of 5,148 burglaries.

The number of cases solved per 100 officers averaged 120. West Midlands was at the top with 226 and Lancashire solved 221. Overall, 28 forces showed improvements on 1994-95, but Greater Manchester fell heavily to 104. This is linked to a strategy of targeting suspects and diverted officers to interviewing convicted prisoners for confessions on other cases.

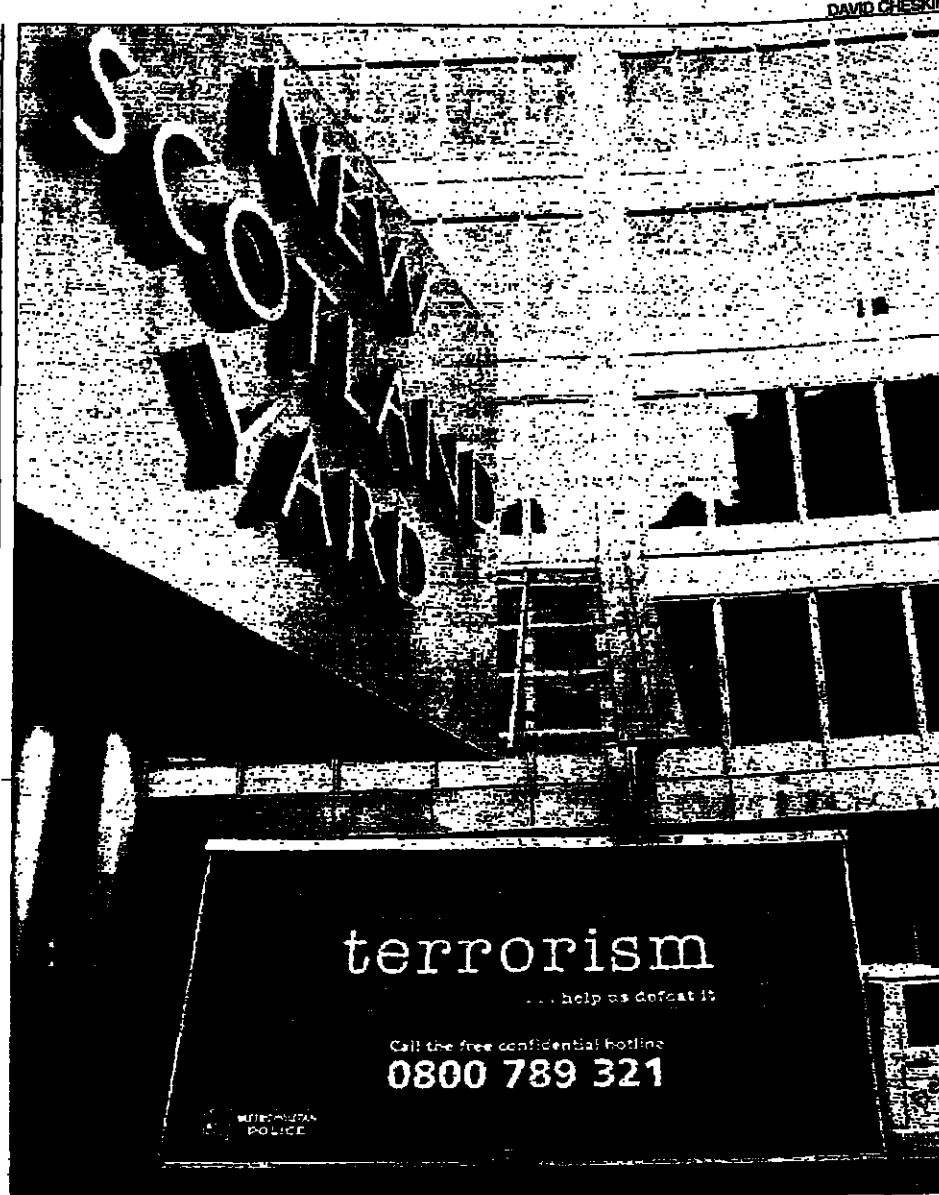
The report showed that 65 per cent of violent crime was solved, but within the 43 forces the rate ranged from 44 per

cent in the West Midlands with 47,000 cases to 96 per cent in Dyfed-Powys with 1,390 cases. On the basis of cases solved per 100 officers, the national average was 184. Nottingham and Staffordshire did best with 359 and 300 down to Lancashire, Herefordshire and West Midlands at the bottom with 117, 120 and 109 respectively.

Nottinghamshire did well in a number of areas. Avon and Somerset, and Staffordshire also scored quite highly. Mr O'Dowd said comparison of the figures was complex and while the performance indicators highlighted differences, they did not provide answers.

The report also warned about continued problems of bullying, racism and sexism among police. A survey published by the inspectorate earlier this year found that cases of oppressive bullying were rising, sexual and racist harassment had become more covert but was still being used, and senior police managers were still not taking action.

The report shows the number of women officers in England and Wales has risen to a record 14.5 per cent. Recruits from ethnic backgrounds have also reached a record 1.81 per cent. Mr O'Dowd said strong leadership was needed to deal with discrimination and harassment. Progress had been made on equal opportunities but this was not enough.



Scotland Yard yesterday launched a £150,000 poster campaign to encourage vigilance against a possible IRA Christmas bombing campaign in London. Senior officers said an escalation of bombing in the run-up to Christmas and next year's general election was likely. Public help was invaluable in preventing loss of life and damage to property. David Veness, the Metropolitan Police's Assistant Commissioner, specialist operations, said: "It is by raising public awareness and reminding people to remain alert: this campaign saves just one life. It will be worth every penny."

Demoted terrorist killed in ambush

By NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A LOYALIST terrorist who was "demoted" by the Ulster Volunteer Force last week was shot dead yesterday.

Tommy Stewart, 32, was killed by masked attackers in the Ballysillan area of north Belfast shortly before 2am. A friend escaped without injury. A man and a woman were arrested after the shooting.

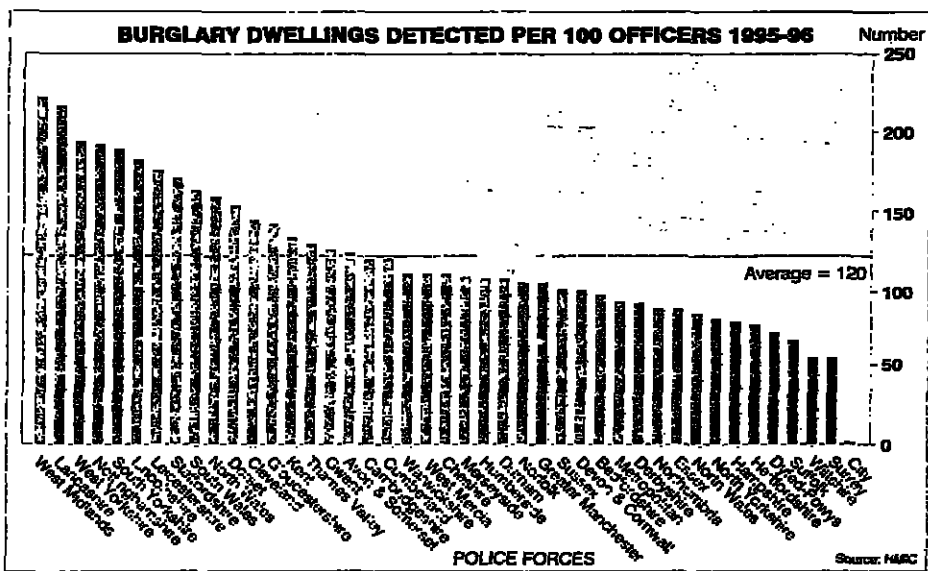
The UVF, which disciplined Stewart after he allegedly failed to hand over thousands of pounds from a Post Office robbery, hinted that the killing was carried out by non-terrorist criminals with a grudge. David Ervine, the main spokesman of the Progressive Unionist Party — the UVF's political wing — said the UVF had "absolutely nothing to do with the murder".

Security sources said they were keeping an open mind on the shooting. One said: "It is a murky picture between criminal elements fighting among themselves and renegade UVF members."

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, condemned yesterday's murder. He said: "Any murder by anybody of anybody has got to be unreservedly condemned. Without qualification, I extend my sympathy to those who have been bereaved."

Also on Monday night, three men were shot in the legs in a suspected loyalist "kneecapping" punishment. The men, who are in their 20s, were ordered at gunpoint to queue up for the shooting in north Belfast.

John Major has agreed to hold talks on Northern Ireland on November 19 with the leaders of the Progressive Unionist Party and the Ulster Democratic Party — which both have links with paramilitary organisations — so long as the loyalist ceasefire holds. It was announced yesterday. They had called for talks this month, on the principle of consent, whereby proposals for the future would be put to a popular majority vote.



High Court frees BCCI fraudster wanted for trial in America

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

A LEADING figure in the BCCI fraud was ordered to be released from jail yesterday after judges criticised the Home Office over delays in his extradition to the United States.

Syed Ziauddin Ali Akbar, the former treasurer of the Bank of Credit and Commercial International, has spent 14 months in custody awaiting extradition to face charges of alleged blackmail. The

extradition has been delayed by disagreements over paperwork between Britain and authorities in France, from where he was originally extradited. Yesterday two High Court judges ruled that enough was enough.

Akbar, 52, who has already served jail terms for false accounting and conspiracy to launder drug money, will walk free from Brixton jail today unless the United States authorities issue another warrant for his extradition.

Yesterday's ruling was another

setback for Michael Howard at the hands of the judiciary. Lord Justice Rose said in the High Court: "During the last two months the Home Secretary has shown a personal interest in this case. Had he done so 12 months ago matters might have been different." He added: "The time has come to say enough is enough. He is discharged from custody forthwith."

Lord Justice Rose said he was "wholly unpersuaded" that the Home Office had shown sufficient cause why Akbar should not be set

free under rules governing the length of time a person can be held pending extradition. "Once he was arrested in September 1995 it was incumbent upon the Home Office to take sufficient steps to extradite him." For half of that time the Home Office did nothing and, although the judge said he recognised the seriousness of the allegations of blackmail Akbar faced in America, this was all the more reason to get on with the case.

Akbar, of Golders Green, north London, who earned £200,000 a

year as head of BCCI's treasury division, has served an 18-month sentence for conspiring to launder drug money and three years of a six-year sentence for false accounting. He fled to France after being released from jail on parole in 1991 during his sentence for drug trafficking. He was arrested in Calais and extradited to Britain on charges of false accounting.

The United States dropped extradition proceedings in connection with laundering the proceeds of cocaine dealing in Florida. But

American authorities began new extradition proceedings, alleging that he accepted a \$15 million bribe from BCCI for not disclosing details of corruption to a senator.

He was taken into custody after the Home Secretary agreed that the extradition could proceed, but the French legal authorities blocked the move. They said they had only agreed to the original extradition on false accounting and should be involved in any further attempt by the United States to re-extradite Akbar on other allegations.

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Legislation needed to end widespread breaches that threaten justice, says Lord Chancellor

Mackay plans law to stop media paying witnesses

BY FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

PLANS to outlaw the "widespread mischief" of payments to trial witnesses by newspapers are unveiled by Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, yesterday.

The Government is proposing a new offence to prohibit payment or offers of payment to anyone likely to be a witness in a trial which is pending or imminent. The proposals, on which comments are invited, have been drawn up in the wake of what the Government believes were "widespread and flagrant breaches"

of the newspaper code of practice which rules out payments of this type.

In the recent Rosemary West trial, 19 witnesses are believed to have accepted money from, or signed contracts with, the media. Payments such as these, Lord Mackay said yesterday, constituted "a real risk to the administration of justice" and steps were needed to "prevent the practice from becoming more widespread".

He said: "We do not believe that the law in this area is clear, or that the matter can be left to media self-regulation alone." There needed to be consultation before moving for-

ward, he said, but added: "I believe that Parliament needs to regulate in statute."

His consultation paper proposes that payment to witnesses should become an offence under the Contempt of Court Act 1981, or that it should become a new criminal offence.

The chief danger of paying witnesses which the paper highlights was that they might omit something from their evidence in order to leave something exclusive for a story in the media, or might exaggerate evidence to make their stories more newsworthy. Witnesses might also "become so committed to their

particular accounts that they may be unwilling objectively to examine points put to them in court."

Even where witnesses were not swayed by contracts with the media, it is likely, the paper says, that cross-examination would raise their existence, suggesting their evidence might be flawed and sowing doubts in jurors' minds.

The Government says new laws must cover payments in kind, such as expensive holidays, and payments through an intermediary. They would also cover foreign media if the offer were made in this jurisdiction, even if the story were published abroad. It recommends

that, to be effective, the new law should not be limited to cases where it can be proved there is actual prejudice.

The Government says there need be only a risk of prejudice for an offence to be committed. The new offence would bite when proceedings were "imminent or pending", as under the contempt laws, so as not to prevent "legitimate investigative journalism", the paper says.

A ban on all interviews would be an "unacceptable restriction," it says. "It is the offering, requesting or making of payments which is the basis of the mischief which needs to be targeted." Where journalists had

good reason not to know an individual was likely to be a witness, there would be no offence. Comments are invited by December 31, including on whether the ban should cease after the trial or carry on for several months after any possible appeal.

The proposals come after a review set up by the Lord Chancellor and the Attorney General in the wake of the Rosemary West trial. They are based on the law of England and Wales but, the paper says, the position in Scotland may also need a review.

Media, pages 22, 23



Janet Stewart: she said she tried to complain

Sole black officer at jail tells of race hate

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A PRISON'S only black officer suffered a hate campaign after she fell out with a powerful warden who was a friend of the governor, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

Janet Stewart, 33, who alleges race discrimination, was called a "black bastard", moved to more tedious guard duties and woken at home by the sound of a racist singing outside. It was claimed.

The tribunal at Croydon, south London, was told that her tormentors wanted to drive her out of her £20,000 job at HMP Latchmere House rehabilitation centre, Surrey, because they saw her as a "danger to the establishment".

Ms Stewart, who has two children, joined in 1992. Her problems were said to have begun in June the following year when she suffered racist abuse from Graham Vaughan, 53, now retired, a former executive committee member of the Prison Officers' Association and friend of Sean O'Neill, 56, who was then the governor.

Ms Stewart's representative, Harjit Grewal, said: "Mr Vaughan had a drink problem. It is alleged he was drunk on June 9 and that he used racist language."

After the incident Mr Vaughan was said to have asked the head of personnel if "that black bastard" had made a complaint against him. Ms Stewart said she tried to tell the governor of the harassment: "For a long time he didn't speak to me, but when he did he would continually try to throw me off the track by telling me what nice eyes I had or how nicely dressed I was." The hearing continues.

Palace meeting solves Prince's garden problem

BY A STAFF REPORTER

GARDENING inevitably came up when Rosemary Verry was invited by the Prince of Wales at Buckingham Palace yesterday. In particular, how to keep water in a fountain clear.

Television viewers earlier this month saw the Prince and his gardening adviser discussing difficulties at Highgrove, Gloucestershire, on BBC's *The English Country Garden*. As they chatted informally, walking in the rain while the Prince held a large umbrella, he pointed to a fountain he had designed and talked of his disappointment at the "utterly revolting" murky water. "I have tried everything and it is rather sad because otherwise it was going to look rather nice," he said.

Yesterday, in front of hundreds of other honours recipients and their families in the formal splendour of Buckingham Palace's great ballroom, 77-year-old Mrs Verry was able to tell him that his problem might soon be over. She said shortly after the ceremony: "I told him that, as a result of our programme, I have had a letter from a man who is an expert on keeping pools clear."

The man said he had been doing it for 20 years. The Prince said it was good news

and asked me to put the man in touch with him." Mrs Verry, who was appointed OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours "for services to garden design and history", has been advising the Prince for eight years.

Despite the grand design of the Buckingham Palace grounds, Mrs Verry said she still preferred the much smaller Highgrove. "Every corner of the Prince's garden has something changing, something happening," she said. "Every time he goes away, he comes back with something new for the garden. I just love going there."

Jonathan Edwards, denied the triple jump gold at the Atlanta Olympics in a rare lapse from a long run of successes, was wished good luck for his future by the Prince when he received the MBE insignia for services to athletics. Edwards, 30, who won silver at Atlanta when he managed just 17.88 metres instead of the 18 metres-plus he was aiming for, said the Prince made him feel even more positive about his future chances — perhaps in the Sydney 2000 Olympics.

The Prince said it was very unfortunate that I didn't get the gold and said there was obviously so much pressure at the time," he said later. "He



Jonathan Edwards, who won the triple jump silver at Atlanta, and his wife Alison, with his MBE insignia

took a great deal of interest and obviously understood how I felt at Atlanta. I was in tears at one stage, but you just have to pick yourself up."

Edwards, of Newcastle

upon Tyne, was at the Palace with his wife, Alison, his mother, Jill, and his father, the Rev Andrew Edwards, vicar of Canford Magna, near Bournemouth. Others invest-

ed yesterday included Lieutenant-General Sir Rupert Smith, General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland and former UN commander in Bosnia (bar to DSO),

Monty Fresno, 77, *Daily Mail* photographer (MBE), and Tom Shebbear, executive director of the Prince's Trusts (Commander of the Royal Victorian Order).

Store fined over safety guard that killed baby

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THE chain store Argos was found guilty yesterday of selling a child bedguard that killed a baby boy.

The firm ignored danger warnings from two mothers before Matthew l'Anson, aged 10 months, was found strangled at home in Hartlepool, with his head between the bars and his feet dangling off the floor. The £9.99 guard was designed to stop toddlers falling out of bed, but magistrates at Teesside were told that the gaps between the bars were too wide and the product had no minimum age warning.

Suzanne Fagan, from Northwich, Cheshire, had complained to Argos in May last year after her three-year-old son's head became trapped in the bars. Another mother, Rosemary Chesters, from Workington, Cumbria, pointed out the hazard 11 months before the hanging.

The bedguard makers, Aronstead, of Wakefield, Yorkshire — which have since ceased trading — had reduced the spacing from 10cms to 7.5cms, but some of the old models remained on sale. Argos ultimately spent £250,000 on notices withdrawing them. Out of 74,000 sold, 10,000 were returned.

The store was found guilty of two safety standards offences and was fined £3,000 with £8,502 costs.

SAFE STRONG HERBAL

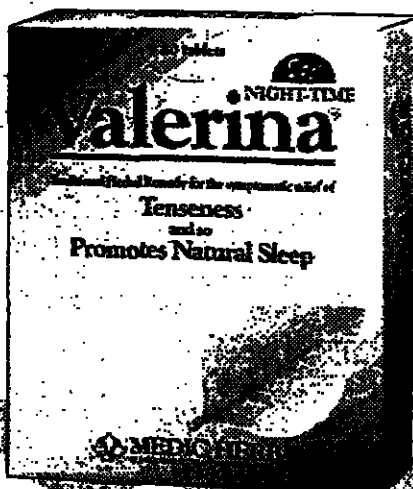
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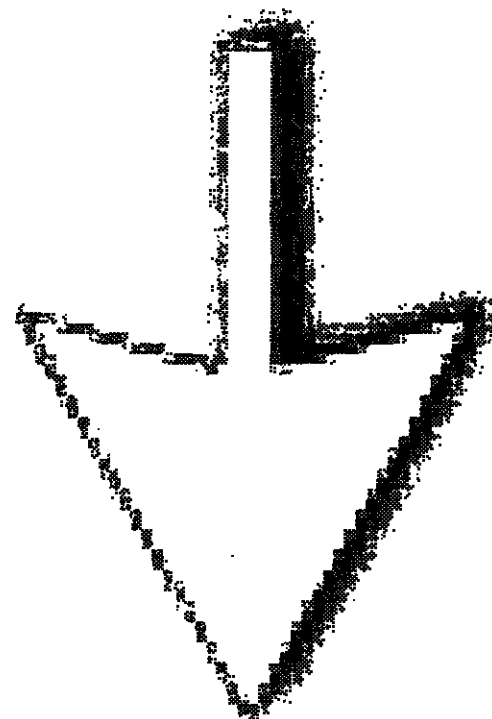
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Leading article, page 23

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Queen watches from riverside pavilion as royal barges put on spectacular display

Echoes of Cleopatra as Thais push the boat out

FROM ALAN HAMILTON IN BANGKOK

YOU would not mistake the King of Thailand's royal flotilla for the Oxford and Cambridge boat race, but you might reasonably expect Cleopatra to glide by at any moment. There are 52 barges, rowed by more than 2,000 ratings of the Royal Thai Navy in a traditional costume that looks as if it might have been ceremonial dress at the court of Genghis Khan.

The barge procession down the Chao Phraya river past the golden temples of Bangkok, to be held next week, is one of the highlights of King Bhumibol Adulyadej's golden jubilee. The Queen, on the second day of her state visit to Thailand, watched its dress rehearsal from a riverside pavilion.

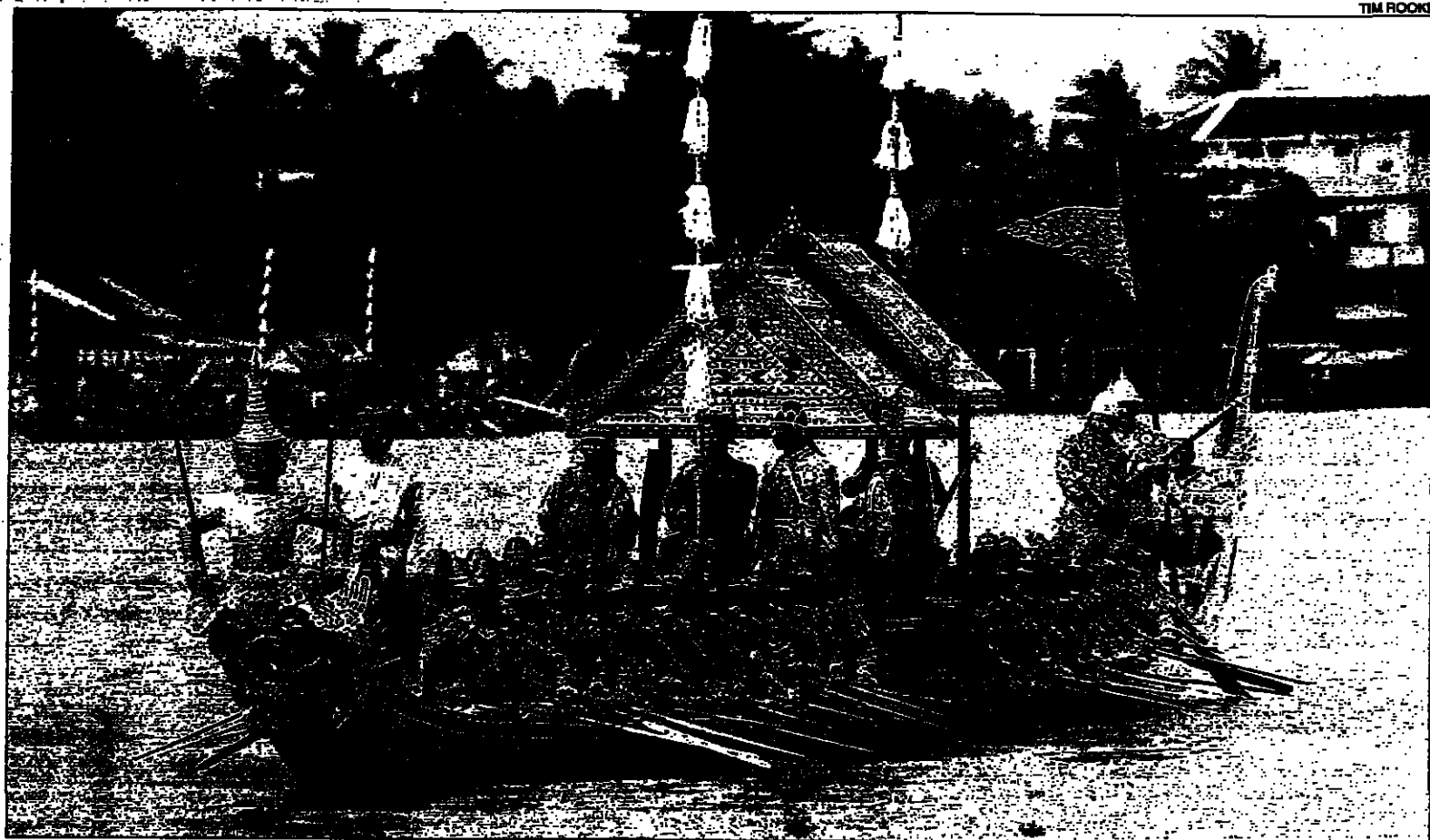
The grandest vessels are entirely gold, matching anything that Mark Antony saw on the Nile, with the exception of Shakespeare's purple perumed sails and "pretty-dimpled boys" with fans. Other vessels are brilliant red and all are decorated with the astonishing intricacy of Buddhist art. According to 600-year-old

custom, they row at a snail's pace, accompanied by an ethereal chant from the oarsmen that, on first hearing, sounds faintly like *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot* from some distant Twickenham. Never mind that nowadays the singing comes from battery-powered on-board amplifiers; this is the electronics-obsessed Far East.

The Queen enjoyed the spectacle, but not the climate. Yesterday Bangkok wilted at 35C (95F) and 80 per cent humidity, causing the Queen to undertake four changes of clothing during the day.

She began in blue and white primed jersey with matching straw hat, switched to tangerine chifon with another straw hat for lunch and back to blue and white for the afternoon, but without the hat. In the evening, to watch a son at *lumiére* show at a temple complex 50 miles from Bangkok, she changed yet again into evening dress.

The Duke of Edinburgh matched the quick change routine in the morning, visiting a naval academy. He wore



Ratings wear traditional dress in the 600-year-old ceremony. The oarsmen's "ethereal chant" actually comes from battery-powered amplifiers

the short-sleeved whites of an Admiral of the Fleet, looking ever more like his late uncle, Earl Mountbatten of Burma. For lunch he was back to a dark suit, for the afternoon another slightly less dark suit, and for the evening black tie.

During a visit to the British Council offices in Bangkok, the Queen staged an impromptu walkabout among the large crowd outside, to the

alarm of Thai officials unused to such informality. Accompanied by Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, one of the King's three daughters, the Queen greeted the crowd, which had been well supplied in advance with paper Union flags, and created much delight simply by smiling and saying "Hello".

At lunch at the Bank of Thailand, the Queen was

again spared the hotter excesses of Thai cuisine. She ate foaming mountain cress soup, supreme of corn-fed duck with a beetroot and apple confit and celery snow, finishing with water chestnut jewels and sugar-cane ice-cream with tropical fruits, accompanied by an Australian chardonnay.

Later, at Bangkok airport, the Queen celebrated a notable British export success.

Rolls-Royce has sold 20 of its new Trent 800 engines to Thai International Airways, and now has an order book worth £3.5 billion from southeast Asia.

There was less encouraging news for the 20 Britons held in Thai jails after being convicted of drugs-related offences, who had hoped for a further amnesty in addition to the cuts in sentences granted by King

Bhumibol to mark his jubilee. Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, who is accompanying the Queen, had talks with his Thai opposite number yesterday but gave no indication that further concessions were on their way. He said that no individual cases had been discussed, despite speculation that one, Sandra Gregory, might be given an early transfer to a British prison.

Rector, 90, retires with blast at lax morals

By RUTH GLEDHILL

THE Church of England's oldest serving rector announced his retirement yesterday, the day after celebrating his nineteenth birthday.

The Rev Douglas White, Rector of Mudford, near Yeovil, in Somerset, is retiring after 63 years in the Anglican ministry and after 46 years at Mudford.

During his time as parson at the village church he has christened, married and buried up to three generations of different families. As recently as the Sunday before last, his church was packed for five simultaneous christenings.

But almost concern to Mr. White, who married at 64 to Yolande, a "housewife's daughter" who is 39 years his junior, was the decline in morality he had witnessed in the Church and society. He said yesterday: "I won't stop spreading the Christian word. I agree with the latest moral crusade and will be supporting it all the way. Unusually, he ensures that the Ten Commandments are read regularly in full services."

Mr. White, who has two children, Joy, 25, and Zoe, 22, said: "There is a greater laxity of moral guidance in the Church. There is an acceptance of large moral defects, which saddens me."

Singing monks tipped for top of Christmas chart

By AUDREY MAGEE AND ROBIN YOUNG

THERE could be an unfamiliar religious note to the pop charts this Christmas. Monks have shot to No 1 in the Irish album chart, displacing the likes of REM and Simply Red. In Britain, monks and boys from a leading Roman Catholic school have entered the classical chart with a recording of 1,000-year-old Gregorian chants.

Faith of Our Fathers, the Irish disc, went on sale ten days ago and reached No 1 within a week. The idea came to John Kearns, 36, an insurance executive, while at Mass in Dublin in February. An elderly priest led the congregation in traditional hymns and the monks continued to run, though Mr. Kearns's mind the next day.

"I reckoned none of these classic religious anthems of Ireland had been put on record and most people would never have heard them with an orchestra," Mr. Kearns said. "I knew the album could work."

He set to work with Bernard Bennett, a colleague. Record companies laughed at the idea, but they raised £90,000 and organised a cast of about 200 people, including monks from Glenstal Abbey, the tenor Frank Patterson and the soprano Regina Nathan.

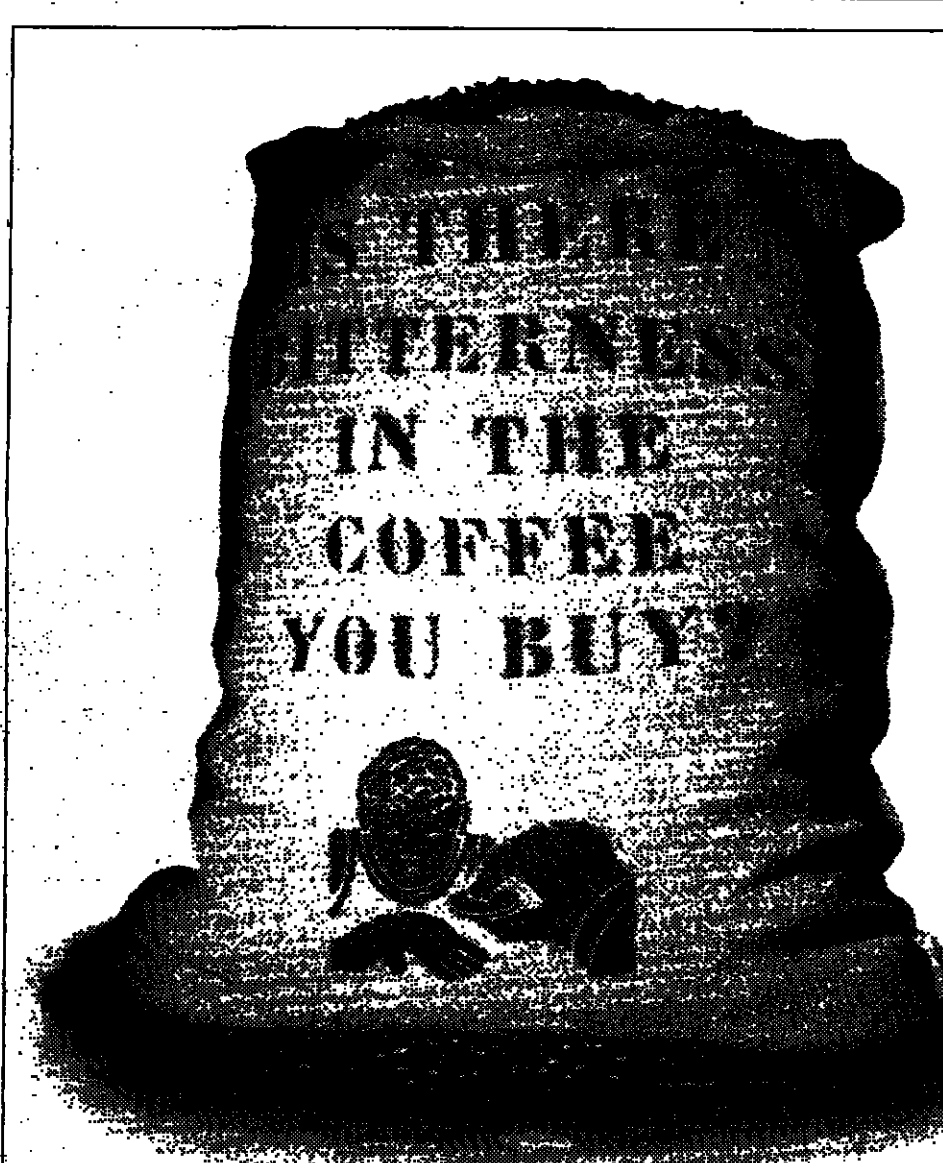
the RTE Youth Choir and the Irish Philharmonic Orchestra and Choir. The 20 tracks were recorded in two and a half days at Maynooth College.

In the first week 35,000 albums were sold and up to 200,000 are expected to be sold by Christmas. Negotiations are under way for British sales. Concerts are to be held next year.

The Benedictine brothers of Downside Abbey, near Bath, are hoping to emulate the Irish success. Their album, *The Abbey*, entered the classical chart and also reached No 54 in the pop listing after one week on sale.

With the backing of a £150,000 promotional campaign by the record company, Virgin, the monks and their pupils could be in the top ten by Christmas. Father Dunstan O'Keefe, the monks' choir master, said: "It is a much slower and more meditative style of music, which people do not usually get in the world around them. I hope that it touches the soul."

Two years ago six million copies were sold worldwide of an album of Gregorian chants by Spanish monks. The royalties from the Downside album will provide scholarships and new musical instruments.



Minas, Brazil, 1996. A coffee plantation worker toils in 80 degree heat to earn 56p an hour. It's not enough but it's better than nothing. Nothing is what he earned last week when bad weather stopped the harvest. Nothing is what he will earn for the next eight months, when the season is over.

A family is paid a pittance for an 11 hour day.

A child of 6 is taken from school to work in the harvest season.

A man breaks a leg in transit to work, but gets no compensation.

This is one side of the coffee industry in Brazil today.

Underneath that heady aroma there's something that doesn't smell so good.

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A boycott isn't the answer because it can make things even worse for the growers and pickers by taking away the market. And in any case, you can't always tell by looking which products involve exploitation and which don't.

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"I wake up at five o'clock. We only stop for 15 minutes. There are no more breaks till the end of the day."

The words are those of a coffee worker in Brazil. By making your supermarket listen to you, you're making them listen to her, and to millions of people like her throughout the Third World.

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(Ref 1905)

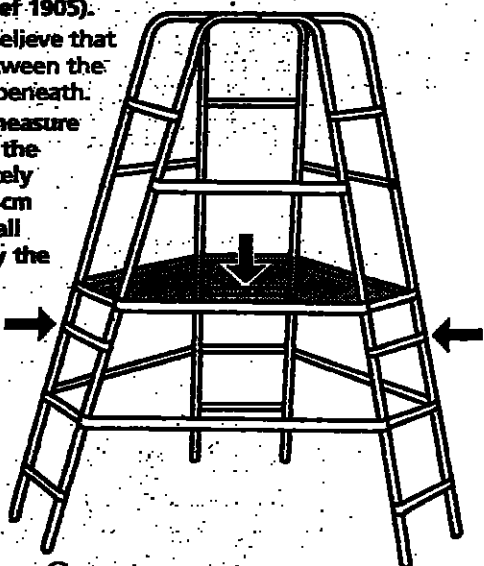
This is important safety information for all customers who purchased a Climbing Frame, manufactured before January 1995. This information is relevant only when constructed in Giant Mode and when used in conjunction with the Platform (ref 1905).

In certain circumstances, we believe that a child could become caught between the platform and the rungs directly beneath.

A simple check is needed to measure the gap between the bottom of the platform and the rung immediately below (see diagram). If this is 14cm (5 1/2 inches) you should remove all three short rungs as indicated by the arrows.

Please retain the rungs as they will be needed when the frame is used without the platform.

If you are at all unsure of any aspect of this notice, please contact your local Early Learning Centre or telephone our Customer Services helpline on 0990 352 352.



Early Learning Centre

Poll nerves force delay on bypass decision

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

A DECISION on the controversial Salisbury bypass has been delayed by the Government in an attempt to avoid a damaging dispute with environmentalists before the general election.

The Secretaries of State for Transport and the Environment announced yesterday a minimum of a further three months' discussion on the proposed routes to consider damage to nature and wildlife sites. Construction of the road looks increasingly unlikely.

The 11 miles of dual carriageway, which would cut through sites of special scientific interest, was originally part of a scheme linking Southampton and Bristol. Other parts of that route have already been dropped.

Whitehall sources suggested that John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, and Sir George Young, his Transport counterpart, were reluctant to support the road but did not want to risk new controversy shortly before the election. Also the ministers did not wish to embarrass Robert Key, the local Tory MP and a former Roads Minister, who supports the scheme.

The Government's announcement may have been influenced by a new report that says the economic benefit of the scheme would not be as great as previously thought.

The delay has angered supporters and opponents of the bypass, first proposed in the 1980s. The district council has backed the scheme in the belief that it will relieve serious congestion in the cathedral city, John Haywood, leader of the Liberal Democrat-controlled council, said: "We wanted a decision, even if that decision was goodbye."

Simon Festing, of Friends of the Earth, said that the

Government should have demonstrated its environmental credentials by cancelling the scheme. "The Government seems to be fudging the issue until after a general election," Mr Festing said. "This leaves the bypass with no justification as it will not solve the traffic problems of Salisbury."

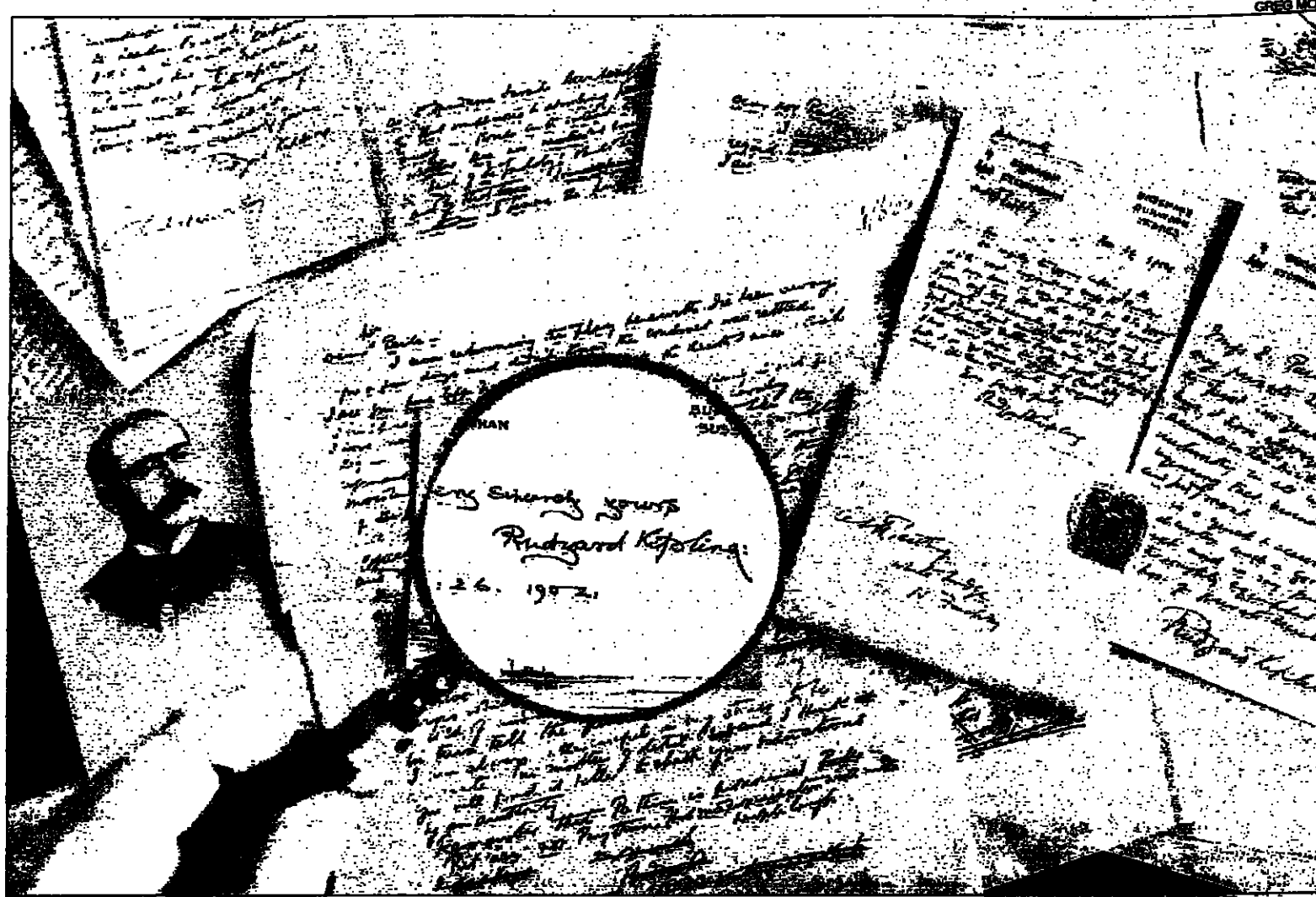
Friends of the Earth is in discussions with the newly privatised rail freight companies to see how much freight could be carried on a nearby line instead of on the congested A36.

The report on the economic benefits of the bypass was written by consulting engineers on behalf of the Highways Agency after the public inquiry into the scheme. It says that the route would not be loss-making, but that the economic benefits up to 2011 would be £107 million compared with a previous estimate of £135 million.

Sir George Young said yesterday that inspector's report from the public inquiry had shown "a strong case for a bypass of Salisbury", but there had been significant developments since the inquiry ended in April 1994. These included the decision to declare part of East Harnham Meadows, an area to the south of the city, a site of special scientific interest.

Mr Gummer said: "We are concerned both about the environment of the people of Salisbury and the need to minimise the environmental impact of the proposed bypass. Before we come to a final decision, we need to satisfy ourselves that the level of impact on the local environment is acceptable."

Mr Key said: "This will ensure that there can be no question of a wrong decision being made."



A selection of the papers, which were taken by Kipling's private secretary. She complained that he had treated her "like a common typist".

Kipling letters found in saleroom chest

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A COLLECTION of Rudyard Kipling's papers has been discovered in two brown paper bags within a chest of drawers consigned to a furniture sale at a Chichester auction house.

The material was taken by a disgruntled employee, Miss K.E. Parker, Kipling's private secretary from 1902 until 1904. Mr and Mrs Kipling, she grumbled in a four-page memo, "treat me like a common typist and yet expect work of as good quality as if they treated me at least with civility and paid me well."

The collection includes a heavily corrected typescript of his fantasy story, *With the Night Mail*, and letters to Kipling which he annotated with his replies. In one, he was offered a Lancaster car if

he would "immortalise" the donor in a story. Kipling declined, explaining that he had only just become used to his present car. The reply he scribbled on the letter for the secretary to type reads: "Acknowledged with thanks. Mr Kipling has, after some time, more or less mastered the intricacies of one type of car and does not feel equal to

taking on another. He has no doubt that the 6HP Lancaster has interesting and unusual traits of its own, but he has passed that period in his life when necessities in a car interest him. He prefers cars that go on in a perfectly uneventful manner."

In another letter, Kipling notes the unsuitability of Sarah Bernhardt to star in a

dramatised version of one of his stories: "Imagine that imperious... person turned loose, so to speak, on a story of mine."

A hint of the tension between Kipling and Miss Parker emerges in a reference he wrote for her in 1904. Although he described her as entirely honest and a good typist, he noted: "She is in the

habit of elaborating letters from notes supplied."

Elizabeth Inglis, assistant librarian in charge of the Kipling papers at the University of Sussex said the collection was extremely interesting and would make a welcome addition to the university's Kipling correspondence, which it holds on behalf of the National Trust.

She said that Mrs Kipling, rather than her husband, was known to have been difficult: "She kept everyone at arm's length... from Kipling... She looked after his time and privacy very jealously. I don't think he had a reputation for being particularly crusty."

The collection, which is estimated to fetch around £5,000, will be offered on November 5 at Stride, Chichester, West Sussex.

Leading article, page 19

Gallery fails in bid for Freud

A GALLERY that was refused National Lottery assistance to buy a Lucian Freud painting has failed to raise the asking price. The work is now likely to go to America (Dalya Alberge writes).

Lucian Freud completed *Portrait on a Grey Cover* a few months ago. Abbot Hall Art Gallery in Kendal, Cumbria,

which drew 26,000 people to a Freud exhibition, had hoped to buy it for £780,000 but could raise only £250,000. A lottery donation was not forthcoming because the picture was a contemporary work.

The Heritage Lottery Fund said that works of art had to be more than 20 years old to qualify for a donation. The

Arts Council said that the painting did not qualify because it was not a commission and it does not help with the purchase of works for permanent collections.

Edward King, Abbot Hall's director, said that galleries would be denied important contemporary works unless the rules were changed.

Police move against off-licences

Northumbria Police began legal action yesterday to strip five off-licences in Wallsend and North Shields of their alcohol licences. The move is the result of Operation Andy Capp, a six-month investigation into an outbreak of disorder among young people in the area of Tyneside served by the shops. Police believe that much of the trouble stemmed from under-age drinking. The applications will be heard within two months.

Piano memorial

Money from a memorial fund for Caroline Dickinson, 13, who was murdered in France, will pay for a piano at Lancing College, where she was a pupil. It will also sponsor a poetry competition and a bed of daffodils at the college.

Change of heart

A surgeon who was barred from admitting patients after a sex change had the ban overturned. Sarah, formerly William, Muirhead-Allwood, 49, is an orthopaedic surgeon at the King Edward VII Hospital for Officers, London.

Death on road

Alick James Albutt, 59, of Coventry, died when he was dragged along the road for more than two miles after being hit by a vehicle or falling as he left a pub, police believe. A van driver has been released on police bail.

Vandal attack

A war memorial in Chapeltown Park, Sheffield, is to be demolished after attacks by vandals left it beyond repair. The demolition has been approved after talks with the local branch of the Royal British Legion.

Harrods relents

Harrods has dropped a £1 charge to use its lavatories for customers who spend £100 or more. A spokesman said that customers' grievances were well founded, but it was not up to the store to act as a public convenience.

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Leading article, page 23

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Drug test reveals pain gap between men and women

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

PAIN brings out the differences between the sexes but, contrary to popular myth, women are not really any more stoic than men. The latest evidence comes from experiments by an American team which show that the sexes respond very differently to opiate painkillers.

Though relatively ineffective at controlling pain in men, these drugs proved much more successful for women. The results back the belief that the sexes perceive pain in a different way, and suggest that painkillers, which are relatively little used because they were originally tested on men may be well worth prescribing for women.

Writing in *Nature Medicine*, Dr Karen Berkley, of Florida State University, says that about half of all trials comparing pain perception show that women have a lower threshold and lower tolerance than men. Others failed to find any difference.

Females often appear to have lower thresholds, greater ability to discriminate, higher

pain ratings and less tolerance, she says. "Women generally report pains in more body regions than men and are more likely to report recurrent or chronic pains that are also more severe and of longer duration."

New experiments, also reported in *Nature Medicine* by a team led by Dr Jon Levine, from the University of California at San Francisco, show that young men and women respond differently to opiate painkillers after operations to remove wisdom teeth. Nalbutaphine and butorphanol were administered by intravenous injection as soon as the anaesthetic from the operation wore off. The amount of pain felt was monitored, showing that the two painkillers worked well for the women, but had only a brief effect for the men.

One possibility is that the male hormone testosterone interacts with this class of opioids, reducing their effect, or that female hormones such as progesterone or oestrogen increase the drug's power. Another explanation is that

the drugs linger longer in women's bodies or are metabolised differently, but the duration of the side-effects reported by both sexes argues against this.

Dr Berkley, who comments on the findings in the same issue of the journal, says that the results illustrate the problems that arise from basing so many drug trials upon men. Studies on rats have shown that sex hormones have complex and potent influences on the effects of opiate painkillers, she says. "We know that men and women differ in certain fundamental ways, so it isn't surprising that they may differ in this way, too. Time of day, the stage of the menstrual cycle and other things are very important."

Researchers at the William Harvey Research Institute in London say they have identified a natural mechanism, the protein lipocortin-1, which can halt the destruction of bone and cartilage caused by rheumatoid arthritis. They believe it may be possible to develop drugs which mimic the effect.



Rocio Nieto Rubio with her daughter and assistant, Rocio Mora Nieto

Spanish vice girls' saviour wins Lady Godiva prize

By Ian Murray

A SPANISH social worker who has dedicated her life to helping prostitutes was chosen in preference to a Nobel Peace Prize winner yesterday to receive a new international award created by a British city.

Rocio Nieto Rubio will receive no prize money, but says the Godiva International Award is of great value to her work. "Charities for Aids, the elderly, disabled children and other good causes are all well established and the public support them," she said. "This award is international recognition at last of the problems facing prostitutes and the work needed to help them."

The award was initiated by Coventry council to mark the 100th anniversary of automobile construction in the city. It will be granted annually to a woman whose courage recalls that of Lady Godiva, said to have ridden naked through the streets to force her husband to rescind penal taxes. Embassies in London were asked to nominate women who might qualify.

Señora Rubio was chosen from among 33 worldwide nominees. Those on the

shortlist included Aung San Suu Kyi, the Burmese opposition leader and Nobel winner, and Heather Mills, the British model who lost a leg in a road accident and now trains others to use artificial limbs.

The Spanish Government nominated Señora Rubio for her work among the poorest prostitutes in Madrid and Alicante. She began her efforts in the slums of the capital 25 years ago.

"I found there was nobody caring for these people dumped in the middle of cities," she said yesterday. "They need help finding homes for their children. They have no education and cannot cope with bureaucracy. They are exploited by pimps and need help to get out of the drugs habit."

In 1989 she set up an association for the rehabilitation of prostitutes, which is backed by the Government. Since then it has rehabilitated 1,200 women and helped a further 3,400.

She is often threatened by pimps but finds that the best form of defence is to stand up to them. "At heart these people are just cowards."



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Myth that began with childbirth

IT HAS long been known that women respond to alcohol faster than men, in smaller doses and that the effect lasts longer. It might be supposed that painkilling analgesics would behave in a similar fashion.

One of the striking features of today's prescribing habits is that fear of inducing addiction leads to painkillers being given in doses too small to be effective. Of the drugs in the Californian survey, Nalbutaphine is usually administered by injection to control mild to moderate pain, often after an anaesthetic. "Butorphanol" is more akin to morphine, has a similar depressant effect on respiration and can, if prescribed for a very long while, lead to addiction.

The myth that women suffer pain much better than men has probably grown up because of their willingness to start another pregnancy despite the ghastliness of some deliveries. Women's stoicism in the face of appalling, long-term adversity had reinforced the belief that they were, by

nature, also able to tolerate acute pain without complaining. No one can forget that they suffer chronic illness well, and are prepared to forget the pain of childbirth, which can now, mercifully, be removed in most cases, by ambulatory epidural anaesthesia.

Experience in general practice shows that women certainly feel acute pain every bit as much as men, and that they are not always reluctant to let the doctor and midwife know if the delivery is not as easy as they might hope. The experience of the Californian doctors that painkillers are more efficient in women is also an everyday observation of family doctors, but it is nice to have it analysed and scientifically proven.

The admission of feeling pain is partly cultural. In societies where children have been told to "jump up, grin and bear it" after minor accidents, adults feel that to admit pain is showing weakness. Never have I seen such tolerance of pain as was displayed by agricultural male workers at my Norfolk practice. They seemed to consider that resorting to local anaesthesia for a minor operation was a reflection on their character, as well as being a waste of time. "Just get your bloody knife out, doctor, and be done with it," was their approach.

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School discipline: Backbench Tories demand a return to 'moderate corporal punishment'

Shepherd knew the Right planned a caning campaign

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SEVERAL Tory backbenchers had urged Gillian Shepherd to restore corporal punishment in state schools before she declared her views yesterday.

The party's rightwingers had been co-ordinating a campaign and had discussed the issue with the Education Secretary and her junior ministers. Mrs Shepherd expressed her support for caning yesterday in the full knowledge that James Pawsey, chairman of the Tory backbench education committee, was planning an attempt to reintroduce it with an amendment to the forthcoming Education Bill. Her department had also been approached by members of the all-party Education Select Committee who also support a return to corporal punishment.

Yesterday the campaign leaders were furious that the Prime Minister had snubbed their plan, which they claimed had widespread support in the country. The main focus of the campaign was to get round the restrictions of the European

Court of Human Rights by drawing up school contracts to allow parents to consent to their children being caned for misbehaviour.

In 1986 Mr Pawsey, MP for Rugby and Kenilworth, lost a similar amendment by one vote, when MPs decided to put Britain in line with the rest of Europe and abolish corporal punishment in state schools. Thirty Tory MPs, mainly from the left of the party, then voted with the Opposition to ban caning. But yesterday even leftwingers such as David Nicholson joined the clamour to give teachers the means to impose discipline. They argued that discipline had worsened since corporal punishment was banned in 1987. Two weapons had been removed from teachers: detention and the cane.

Mr Nicholson, MP for Taunton and a member of the Education Select Committee, said: "I think there is a role for corporal punishment in schools."

Mr Pawsey, who is once again leading the debate, sug-

gested yesterday that school contracts could be changed to allow parents to give their consent. He told the Commons: "Exclusions result in those children who most need education and discipline being put outside the school gates, where the devil will soon find work for idle hands. I therefore argue that should a school wish to insert in its contract a clause which will allow the school head to use the cane in place of exclusion, then such a clause should be inserted and the contract signed by the parent. I believe that most parents would prefer their children to be caned on the hand rather than excluded from school."

Mr Pawsey said he was anxious that teachers had all the sanctions they needed. "Corporal punishment is merely one of those sanctions. The mere fact that it is available would in most cases be sufficient. The cane in the corner of the headteacher's study is in itself a powerful deterrent."

Harry Greenway, Tory MP



Government inspectors arrived yesterday to begin a two-day audit of the Ridings School, Halifax, where disciplinary problems have led teachers to threaten a strike. The inspectors will produce a report for the governors and an action plan for the Education Secretary. The result of a strike ballot is expected by the end of this week.

for Ealing North and a member of the Education Select Committee, said that he would consider putting forward an amendment to the Education Bill to raise the issue of corporal punishment. "I could certainly see myself doing that because I think there is so

much value in proper corporal punishment — I don't mean beating boys until they bleed, I mean moderate and reasonable corporal punishment which is an indignity to the recipient."

Earlier Sir Rhodes Boyson, Tory MP for Brent North and

a former headmaster, appealed for the return of caning. "We now have something like 10 per cent of 15 and 16-year-olds in open revolt, either inside our schools or truanting in our cities, with an underground like the Artful Dodger in the 19th century,"

he said on BBC Radio 4's *The World at One*. "I think corporal punishment should be brought back. It should be in the Government's Bill with the full backing of the Government."

Leading article, page 19

Changing the law would put Britain on trial

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

RESTORING corporal punishment to state schools would fall foul both of a series of European Court of Human Rights rulings and of international conventions signed by the Government. It would also demonstrate contempt for the United Nations recommendations that corporal punishment be prohibited not only in the state sector, as now, but also in the private sector.

Peter Newell, co-ordinator of EPOCH, a group that campaigns against corporal punishment, said yesterday: "It is hard to believe that an education minister could be giving support to the institutionalised caning of children in 1996. It is a relief that the Prime Minister has confirmed that in view of our international obligations, re-introduction of corporal punishment is not practicable."

The trend is running in favour of wider bans on corporal punishment. A case pending before the European Commission on Human Rights, brought by a boy who was beaten by his stepfather with a garden cane, challenges the right of parents to administer corporal punishment at home and rests on the same law applied by the European Court to schools.

Corporal punishment was outlawed in state schools almost ten years ago after a campaign by parents, teachers and others led to series of rulings against the Government by the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. The legislation covers state-funded education in independent schools, including children subsidised under the Assisted Places Scheme.

Since then there have been attempts to outlaw corporal punishment in independent schools. In 1993 the European Court of Human Rights rejected, by a majority verdict, an attempt by a parent to extend its earlier ruling to independent schools. But in a unanimous statement, the judges said that the ruling should not be taken as in any way representing approval of the use of corporal punishment.

Officials may have thought that they could circumvent the law by means of contracts with parents, which could include permission for corporal punishment. But Mr Newell said: "If it becomes a condition of entry to accept corporal punishment, then that certainly breaches the European Convention."

The phone call that brought Major's rebuke

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

GILLIAN SHEPARD was five minutes into a speech at a school in Surrey when she was interrupted by a telephone call from the Prime Minister.

Although such interventions are extremely rare and usually a source of pride to a Cabinet minister, the Education Secretary knew this was one conversation she could do

without. She was aware of the furore caused by her radio interview when she strongly hinted that the Government was planning to bring back corporal punishment.

When Downing Street officials heard how the interview on the BBC's *Today* programme was being interpreted on the 9 o'clock bulletins, they knew something had to be done. During the regular meeting between officials and

the Prime Minister between 9am and 9.30, it was agreed that John Major would speak to Mrs Shepherd directly.

During her train journey to Elmbridge, where she was to open a sixth-form college, her officials were contacted by mobile phone and told to expect a call from Mr Major on her arrival. The call came late and she had to interrupt her speech for 15 minutes.

Downing Street sources

said that Mr Major merely wanted to point out that both he and she had to face questions in the Commons that afternoon and it was important they agreed what line to take. But it was made clear in Westminster that Mr Major gave Mrs Shepherd a dressing-down.

However, she returned to her audience looking relaxed, according to Hugh Ashton, the Mayor of Elmbridge. "She

didn't look under pressure at all," he said. "Her demeanour was quite normal. I pulled her leg and asked what we were all dying to know: are you still Secretary of State for Education?"

Everyone, including Mrs Shepherd, laughed and she said: "Yes, and the PM is still the PM." She then continued her visit for 45 minutes before returning to the Education Department.

Few still cling to discredited stick

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

MORE than a dozen schools in England still use corporal punishment, but few are established names and the list of diehards is dwindling.

Rodney School in Newark gave up beating after publicity over the caning of five 11-year-old girls was followed by a 50 per cent drop in the number of pupils in the early 1990s.

Huime Grammar School in Oldham has also stopped since the appointment of a new headmaster. St James Boys' School in Twickenham, West London, still uses the cane in rare cases but it has some pupils whose parents will not give their consent.

Christian fundamentalist schools account for most of those that practise corporal punishment. The Christian Fellowship School in Toxteth, Liverpool, has used the sanction for 15 years, and the Bradford Christian School recently started using it.

State schools were barred from caning in 1987, most having given up the practice long before. The leading in-

dependent schools also all proclaim their abstinence.

Arthur Hearn, general secretary of the Independent Schools Joint Council, said: "We have never ruled out corporal punishment, although it cannot be used on pupils supported by state funds, but there is a general consensus against it."

Nicholas Debenham, St James' headmaster, said that the Prime Minister was sensible to rule out a general return to corporal punishment because the conditions for its successful use were not present in many schools. "You may need a sanction which boys slightly fear, but unless there is love and trust and respect from the beginning it will not work."

Mr Debenham said that he had used the cane six times in the last school year, for offences such as bullying or persistent disobedience and lying. Corporal punishment is not used in the school's junior department or in the girls' school.

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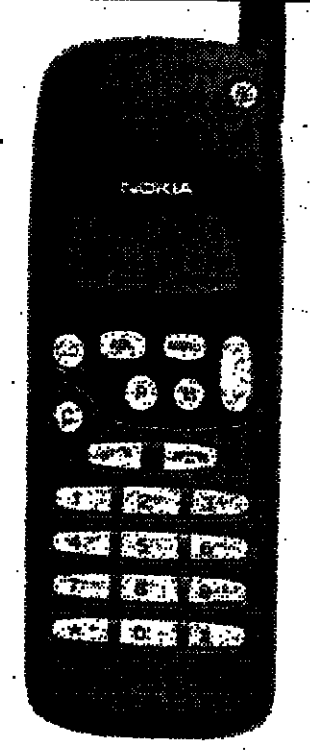
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Fighting in Zaire poses threat of wider conflict

FROM SAM KILEY IN GATUMBA ON THE BURUNDI-ZAIRE BORDER

WEAK and weeping from lack of food and water for three days, two girls aged about nine still found enough reserves of energy to fight over a cob of corn. They scratched at each other's faces and tore at their pigtail as they fought amid Tutsi soldiers milling about.

Their battle to satisfy their hunger ended when a passing peasant woman gave them another corn cob. They were then beaten back to their families by a Tutsi soldier clutching a stick in one hand and a rifle in the other.

The girls are among 1,700 Hutus from Burundi living as refugees in Zaire, a few miles on the other side of the Ruzizi River separating the two countries. They had fled Burundi's war between Hutu and Tutsi extremists last year only to be engulfed now in the violence raging in Zaire between Tutsi rebels and the Zairean Army in the east. The Hutu refugees are caught up in a war they want no part of, and judging by the hatred shown them by Tutsi soldiers, they may soon be joining the war's many



Map showing the location of Zaire, Burundi, Rwanda, and Uganda, with a focus on the border area between Zaire and Burundi.

Victims hidden in mass graves.

Among them was Sylvester Bikorimana, 36, who had led his extended family of 22 members from Kyunga, close to Uvira where Zaire's slaughter of Tutsis and their subsequent rebellion began. He said he had been well-treated by the Tutsi warriors who ordered refugees from Rwanda and Burundi to return home. "I saw many dead bodies in the streets of the town," mostly shot, and all civilians. I don't know what tribe they were from. I didn't stop to look. Unlike fellow Hutus from Rwanda, Mr Bikorimana and his family

did not participate in the genocide of a million Tutsis there in 1994.

The latest ethnic warfare is threatening Africa's worst yet humanitarian crisis. Sadako Ogata, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, said in Geneva that the refugee situation could be "worse than 1994" when 1.2 million Rwandan Hutus fled to Zaire after unleashing a genocide of Tutsis.

Zaire's ailing President Mobutu, undergoing treatment for cancer in a clinic in Switzerland, yesterday ordered that the eastern provinces of North and South Kivu be placed under military rule in an attempt to contain the warfare threatening to draw in Burundi and Rwanda, and which some fear could lead to the breakup of the country.

Yesterday soldiers in the Zaire Army fired at journalists filming Rwandan Hutu refugees fleeing the fighting in the Kivu provinces. Their fire was returned by Rwanda's mainly Tutsi army, and shooting continued sporadically throughout the day. Zaire's Tutsi

rebels and Zairean troops exchanged heavy gunfire for two hours yesterday near Bukavu airport in eastern Zaire as the rebels infiltrated the provincial capital, witnesses said.

Five minutes up the winding road linking Burundi and Rwanda a lorry driver lay dead. Bullet holes in the windscreen explained how he had died, but not who had shot him. A few hundred yards away two Burundian soldiers lounged by the road. They may have ambushed the driver and killed him for being a Hutu. Hutu rebels may have sprayed him with bullets for being a Tutsi. In this part of the world it is better not to stop and find out.

Geneva: The UN appealed yesterday for Western satellite pictures to trace hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing the ethnic conflict. The agency had no access to up to 400,000 Rwandan Hutus cut off north of Goma and 300,000 on the run in Uvira and Bukavu, further south. (Reuters)

Letters, page 19



A Zairean refugee who lost his mother as they entered Rwanda at the Matura crossing point. They were trying to escape from the fighting in eastern Zaire

Coalition talks falter in Japan

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

WITH less than a week to go before the opening of parliament and the election of the new Prime Minister, Japan appeared to be heading for a minority government last night.

The dominant Liberal Democratic Party was still bargaining with potential coalition partners, but with little to show for its efforts. The Liberal Democrats are trying to persuade the Social Democratic Party and the Sakigake Party to keep the present three-party alliance. Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Prime Minister, is certain to win re-election at the November 7 session, but is anxious to avoid forming an unstable minority government.

In the recent general election, Mr Hashimoto's Liberal Democrats strengthened their position as the biggest party, but fell 12 seats short of gaining a majority in the Lower House. Unless he can build a majority, Mr Hashimoto will face the constant danger of losing a confidence motion, which could bring down the government.

Foreigners told not to interfere in Chinese trial

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING AND JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

CHINA said last night that foreign countries should not interfere in the trial of Wang Dan, one of the country's best known dissidents and the former student leader during the Tiananmen Square pro-democracy demonstrations in 1989.

Mr Wang, 27, is due to go on trial today for allegedly trying to overthrow the Government, in the same court in which China's leading dissident, Wei Jingsheng, was sentenced to 14 years in prison. "In principle, this is the internal affair of China and

Watch/Asia, the trial "shows conclusively that Western mantras about economic growth producing political liberalisation notwithstanding, Chinese leaders are growing increasingly intolerant of dissent". China's urban dissident movement "has in effect been comprehensively smashed".

The consequences are particularly significant for Hong Kong, which has been warned by some of Peking's most senior leaders that protests or statements that "interfere" in Chinese politics



Wang: severe penalty

foreign countries should not interfere," Shen Guofang, a Foreign Ministry spokesman, said yesterday. He added that foreign observers must receive permission from the Justice Department. The American Embassy has asked to send an observer, but has had no response.

Mr Wang was charged on October 7 with counter-revolution for articles he wrote criticising the Government, and for organising a self-help group for dissidents freed from jail. He was detained in May last year.

The trial, on charges of "attempting to subvert the Chinese Government", is based on conflated or distorted documents or activities which in many other countries would be regarded as normal political behaviour. In the words of the New York-based Human Rights

or "personally" criticise national leaders, may be deemed illegal after the hand-over to Chinese rule next year. Mr Wang served almost four years in jail after the Tiananmen Square protests for "counter-revolutionary propaganda and incitement". His indictment

says that because of his past detention, he should be "sentenced with extra severity".

The criminal law stipulates: "Whoever commits any of the crimes of counter-revolution mentioned above... may be sentenced to death."

Paris: The Dalai Lama was kept at arm's length on a three-day visit as French officials feared a dispute with Peking before an official visit to China by President Chirac. China's Foreign Ministry had warned France against any official contact with the Tibetan spiritual leader. (AFP)

Pyongyang 'war plan'

By ROBERT WHYMANT

A NORTH Korean captured after his submarine ran aground off the South Korean coast said yesterday that he and other agents were engaged in a reconnaissance mission, not a routine training exercise that went wrong, as Pyongyang has claimed.

Lee Kwan Soo said he was a lieutenant belonging to the

Reconnaissance Bureau of the Ministry of the People's Armed Forces. Lieutenant Lee, 31, said the submarine crew was not told the purpose of the mission but he believed it was to prepare for "a war against the South".

Seoul: A court yesterday jailed 51 students and handed suspended sentences to 59 for their part in pro-North Korean unrest in August. (Reuters)

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British discover they are polls apart from US campaigners

Boston: Senior British politicians have been making unannounced visits to the United States recently to pick up tips. Brian Mawhinney has been in Washington, while Peter Mandelson was at the last presidential debate in San Diego, where he was introduced to President Clinton (Machiavelli meets "The Prince"). My own, more down-to-earth impression from watching congressional races in the northeast — and the dying embers of the presidential contest — is that there is as much for British politicians to avoid as to copy.

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

First, even nice guys turn nasty when a race gets close. In Massachusetts, the two main Senate candidates have impressive records of public service — the incumbent Democrat John Kerry over two terms and William Weld, the Republican challenger, during six years so far as Governor. Mr Weld combines tax-cutting with support for choice in abortion and gay and minority rights — "against government in your

pockets and in your bedroom". Mr Kerry, a Vietnam hero turned opponent of the war, has done much to defuse the emotive issue of American servicemen missing there. The two even agreed a cap on their campaign budgets. However, with opinion polls showing them level pegging, the affable Mr Weld launched a blitz of adverts about Mr Kerry staying rent-free in a flat lent by a lobbyist. He even accused Mr Kerry of "ungovernably" behaviour in breaking their deal on spending limits. This is trivial froth, but it is easy to see

British politicians also becoming aggressive if the polls narrow. Second, voters disapprove in principle of negative campaigning but it works. Boston pundits have protested about the fairness of Mr Weld's attack on Mr Kerry's ethics, but the polls suggest that these adverts have halted Mr Kerry's momentum. Similarly, the Conservatives' "demon eyes" campaign against Tony Blair was widely criticised, but it helped to undermine his personal rating. Third, debates between candidates are fine in theory as a

means of enlightening voters, but are often less illuminating in practice. In the two presidential debates and a couple of others I have seen here, the candidates played safe, talking across each other and regurgitating rehearsed lines. Everyone repeats current fashions about being tough on crime and favouring welfare reform. Monday night's debate between Mr Kerry and Mr Weld was the eighth they have held since April. It was lively but it exaggerated their real differences, presenting them almost as matters of personal pique

rather than substance. In Britain, the Tory and Labour leaders are used to confronting each other in the Commons, but such a confrontational style might alienate voters in an election debate. My hunch is that nothing will happen. Fourth, the more the parties concentrate on television advertisements and soundbites on the evening news, the less anything else matters. The fight, and expensive, New Jersey race — costing \$6 million (£3.7 million) to \$8 million for each candidate — is turning entirely on rival ad-

vertisements. Hardly anyone appears when the candidates tour the state. Open meetings and hecklers are now history. That is why John Major's "soap box" outings in 1992 were so unusual, and they succeeded in emphasising his fighting qualities. Will they work again? Fifth, candidates should be wary of big-name celebrities. They can make politicians look small. Mr Kerry was totally overshadowed by Jesse Jackson at a rally in a black church. Mr Weld has used his position as Governor to launch a car number plate

featuring Ted Williams, one of the all-time greats of baseball. In Boston, however, the 51-year-old Governor looked like an embarrassed schoolboy when the 78-year-old Williams recalled meeting a former Governor and Mayor, the rascally James Michael Curley, who once won an election while in prison and was the model for the novel *The Last Hurrah*. Fortunately, politicians cannot always predetermine what happens. Simon Jenkins, page 18

PETER RIDDELL

Democrats forced to capitulate over party benefactors

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE Democratic Party last night capitulated in the face of a threatened Republican lawsuit and reversed an unprecedented refusal to publish a list of its financial contributors before election day next Tuesday. The Democratic National Committee's climbdown came after Haley Barbour, the Republican chairman, called the refusal a blatant violation of electoral law by a party guilty of serious wrongdoing. He announced plans to seek a temporary restraining order preventing the DNC from spending any more money in the campaign's final week. Chris Dodd, the Democratic Party chairman, denied that his party had anything to hide or that the DNC had a legal obligation to file a report with the Federal Election Commission listing all contributions and expenditure between October 1 and 16. However, his party's obvious reluctance to disclose its contributors during those two weeks coincided with fresh evidence that the Democrats may have solicited huge illegal foreign donations in return for political favours. The Clinton Administration admitted that the Justice Department was investigating charges that America's defence

ambassador to Taiwan — an Arkansan appointed by President Clinton — had put pressure on Taiwanese officials and businessmen to give money in return for American support for their country. The DNC has already been criticised for accepting six-figure gifts from Indonesian and South Korean businessmen. It seemed unlikely that the late-breaking scandal would hinder Mr Clinton's seemingly effortless cruise towards re-election. A *Los Angeles Times* poll yesterday showed that only one in five respondents believed the Democrats had engaged in serious wrongdoing, while 54 per cent considered the party's acceptance of such contributions "politics as usual". However, evidence that Democrats skirted the law is becoming daily more compelling, and almost invariably centres on John Huang, a former Commerce Department official who subsequently became one of the DNC's top fundraisers. Two weeks ago the DNC was forced to suspend Mr Huang after several six-figure contributions he had obtained from Indonesian and South Korean businessmen turned out to be illegal or highly questionable. American law bars foreign contributions unless the donors are legal residents. Mr Huang immedi-

ately vanished. Judicial Watch, a conservative group investigating whether the Commerce Department had used overseas trade missions to solicit donations to the Democrats, obtained a subpoena requiring his testimony. Mr Huang's lawyer said his client would not surface until after the elections, but late last week an exasperated federal judge instructed the reluctant DNC to order Mr Huang to report for work on Monday so the subpoena could be served. The same judge rejected a petition by Mr Huang's lawyer that the questioning should be limited in scope and kept secret. Mr Huang was testifying yesterday and Judicial Watch planned to release a videotape of his evidence last night. Mr Huang was also involved in the alleged Taiwanese donations. The Justice Department's criminal division is investigating charges that James Wood, America's unofficial ambassador to Taiwan, aggressively sought contributions from Taiwanese officials and businessmen as a reward for the Clinton Administration's support for Taiwan, and steered them towards Mr Huang, who visited Taiwan last May. The United States does not have formal diplomatic relations with Taiwan.



President Clinton holds on to his wedding ring, which came loose after he reached into a crowd during a campaign meeting in Chicago

School head beat the clock to cheat in exams

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

THE head of a night school has been accused of an audacious cheating scam (Quentin Letts writes). Prosecutors said that George Kobayashi hired stooges to sit tests on the east coast of the United States. On leaving the examination hall, they are said to have telephoned the questions to Mr Kobayashi who was on the west coast. He then passed the information to pupils who, thanks to the three-hour

time difference between New York and California, had yet to start the same papers. The answers to the tests were inscribed on pencils by a team of assistants, using a code. Mr Kobayashi distributed the pencils to his pupils who gathered at a central location before dispersing to carefully scattered examination centres so as to avoid arousing suspicion by their high pass rates. Mr Kobayashi, 45, was arrested on suspicion of fraud and faces up to ten years in prison and a fine of up to

\$250,000 (£155,000). His alleged ruse was uncovered only when an FBI agent signed up at one of his schools to secure himself a place on a postgraduate course which he hoped would win him promotion. Mr Kobayashi, whose schools promised students a "unique method" of examination preparation, charged \$6,000 for fiddled graduate school admissions tests, prosecutors said. Pupils were told that a pass was guaranteed, but if they suspected that this was merely an expression of

confidence in the schools' teaching methods, they were soon put right when they were advised by Mr Kobayashi to take a flight to California and sit the exam there. It is thought that several hundred people used Mr Kobayashi's alleged extra service. Mary Jo White, US attorney in Manhattan, said: "The victims are not only the universities but the honest students who perhaps did not get into the school of their choice because they were displaced by someone who cheated."

The great escape.

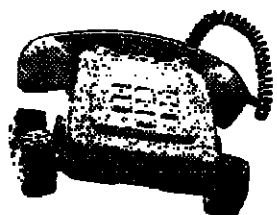
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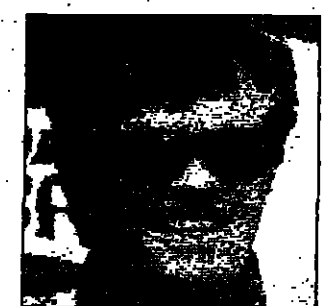
675mph crash ends record attempt

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

HURLING at nine-tenths the speed of sound across the bare waste of Nevada's Black Rock Desert, Craig Breedlove was within seconds of setting a new world land speed record when he survived a terrifying crash that left his dart-shaped

jet car intact but unusable. Powered by a supersonic fighter engine, the \$5 million (£3.1 million) *Spirit of America* was travelling at 675 mph, far faster than the current record, when a cross-wind rocked its rear wheels and sent the car into a U-turn. The accident happened six miles into a straight ten-mile

course moments after Mr Breedlove, 59, ignited the car's powerful afterburner for the first time. As the car spun, he managed to deploy its parachute brake while still moving at more than 600 mph. His top speed was unofficial since records must be the average of two runs in opposite directions.



Breedlove: unscathed

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Besieged Kabul mullahs defy Koran to launch jihad against 'bad Muslim' opponents

Taleban set for a 'final offensive' to seize north

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN KABUL

THE Taleban rulers of Kabul claimed last night that they were ready for a final offensive into northern Afghanistan to capture the remaining one-third of the country. "The backbone of the enemy is broken," it declared.

This seems a hollow boast since the huge army of General Abdul Rashid Dostum, the northern warlord, is hardly scathed, let alone broken.

Mullah Muhammad Mutaqi, the Information and Culture Minister, said troops were dug in and awaiting the order from Mullah Muhammad Omar, the Taleban chief, to begin the advance. Afghanistan would soon be a united country. A jihad was under way to clear the last enemies of Taleban, he said.

towards Taleban in Pakistan, where there is a growing sense that the mullahs have made Afghanistan a laughing stock by their extremism and capricious rule-making.

Central Asia is worried that Taleban will export its revolution across the border despite Mullah Mutaqi's assertion yesterday that Taleban will not offer assistance to Islamic extremists in Tajikistan. Central Asia and Russia are almost certainly helping General Dostum to re-arm and re-equip, since he alone is capable of halting the Islamic army's advance northwards.

Aerial bombing by Taleban north of Kabul appears to be designed to smash the only road out of the Panjshir Valley, headquarters of the former government forces led by General Ahmed Shah Massoud. He retreated from the capital last month but his tanks and artillery are believed to be trapped inside the valley because of the destruction of the road through the narrow gorge. Taleban claimed that 150 enemy troops had died in fighting close to Kabul and that more than 400 had been injured; only two of its force had died. It claimed to be in control of Badkhis province in the west, a Dostum province. General Dostum rejects both this claim and the casualty figures.

The mullahs have made Afghanistan a laughing stock

The Koran says a jihad cannot be declared against fellow Muslims but Mullah Mutaqi side-stepped this nicety by declaring that if General Dostum was a Muslim he was not a good one, and therefore a jihad against him was legal. "I am not saying whether he is a Muslim or an infidel," he added. He was embarrassed to be reminded that two weeks ago he had declared General Dostum a "good Muslim" and a man Taleban could deal with. But events and loyalties are moving rapidly in Afghanistan.

The United States is equally embarrassed by its early enthusiasm for Taleban, whose ruthless methods and suppression of women have made it an international pariah. A month ago the State Department said it saw "no problem" with the Islamic army, which it hoped would bring unity — a declaration that gave the impression that the US was actively supporting the fighters. Taleban is sensitive to this accusation, so much so it has told the US not to send any emissaries for the time being because that could give the wrong impression.

Washington had planned to send a representative to explore the possibility of recognising Taleban as a legitimate government — a possibility that is now firmly dismissed. There are even hints of dismay

sood. He retreated from the capital last month but his tanks and artillery are believed to be trapped inside the valley because of the destruction of the road through the narrow gorge. Taleban claimed that 150 enemy troops had died in fighting close to Kabul and that more than 400 had been injured; only two of its force had died. It claimed to be in control of Badkhis province in the west, a Dostum province. General Dostum rejects both this claim and the casualty figures.

Mullah Mutaqi claimed that some of General Dostum's commanders had defected to Taleban. This is entirely possible since militia commanders routinely swap sides for money, proving the adage that an Afghan can be rented but not bought.

"When Taleban forces entered any part of the country the majority of the people took their side because they were sick of corrupt rule," Mullah Mutaqi said. This is a valid statement, except in Kabul, which continues to hate Taleban's Islamic dogma.

Peace talks from yesterday opened a regional conference in Tehran to seek a solution to the Afghan crisis but Pakistan, a key player in neighbouring Afghanistan, stayed away from the talks. (Reuters)



Taleban fighters examine an unexploded bomb at their base 15 miles north of Kabul. It was dropped by the Dostum-Masood alliance

Plasters and painkillers used to ease agony of child victims

FROM MICHAEL DYNES IN CHARIKAR

ABDUL ZAHAR, a ten-year-old urchin from Ulang district near the Salang highway, was playing in the mud near his home when he picked up a Taleban butterfly mine which blew off his hand and tore a hole in his stomach.

His distraught father had no option but to take him to the dilapidated hospital in Charikar, a small town a few miles south of the arc of fighting, unremarkable in its rows of mud hut terraces, open sewers and throbbing bazaars.

The hospital's overworked staff were able to saw off his hand at the wrist, sew up the stump, remove most of the fragments from his abdomen and give him a little pain killer to ease his agony. In a day or two, he will have to be discharged to make way for the other casualties who are queuing to take his place.

For those who do not have enough money for treatment in Mazari-Sharif, the fly-infested wards of Charikar hospital are all that is available. Dark, damp and riddled with cockroaches and other vermin, it is a wonder how a healthy person could survive even a few days. Sheets of polythene, fixed to rickety wooden frames, serve as make-do windows. Naked light bulbs and bare wires hang from the crumbling ceilings. A pile of blood-stained stretchers lies in a corner. Flies and dust are everywhere and the stench from the lavatories is so overwhelming it is difficult not to vomit if you find yourself downwind of them.

Dr Muhammad Waqub Rasuly,

who runs the hospital when he is not doubling as General Ahmed Shah Massoud's physician, is embarrassed by his hospital's filthy state. However, when he was presented with a letter from General Masood's office asking him to co-operate with us, he eventually allowed us to examine the facilities.

Each of the tiny rooms is packed with patients lying on small rickety beds furnished with two-inch-thick

mattresses. All are suffering from terrible head, chest, limb and abdominal wounds: victims of the fighting between Taleban troops and the former government forces trying to retake Kabul, the Afghan capital.

The doctor recites what has become the mantra of hospital administrators all over Afghanistan: "We do not have enough medicines and drugs to treat the people who come to us. Often I have to search in the bazaar to see what I can find. Serious cases can stay with us for ten days. Less serious ones, those with broken or amputated limbs, have to leave after two days."

In another ward lies Obid Ullah, eight, from the Farza district near Kabul. He lost his leg when he was hit by shrapnel from a Taleban shell during recent fighting. The leg's tattered remnants were removed on the operating table less than an hour ago, and he is dying.

When General Masood pushed Taleban back from the Panjshir Valley to the hills around Kabul, the hospital was inundated with casualties. Dr Rasuly said that as well as the civilians they had to cope with 230 injured Taleban. "We could not deal with them, so we had to send them back to Kabul."

Now that General Masood has renewed his offensive against Taleban in the hills, the hospital is bracing itself for a new flood of casualties. Most will be civilians. Charikar Hospital will be on hand to administer a Band Aid to a bleeding people.



Abdul Zahar's father shares his injured son's suffering

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West Bank tensions rise as crowd riots at Arab boy's funeral

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN HEBRON AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

ISRAELI troops used live ammunition to break up Palestinian rioting which broke out in the occupied West Bank yesterday after the funeral of a ten-year-old Arab boy allegedly beaten to death by a Jewish settler.

The boy's death — the circumstances of which are under dispute — became the focal point of tension whipped up by the failure of American-sponsored negotiations to finalise terms under which Israeli troops can hand over most of Hebron, the last occupied West Bank city, to Palestinian control.

Yesterday Israeli and Palestinian negotiators convened in a Tel Aviv hotel in an effort to keep the talks alive although Yasser Arafat, the President of the Palestinian Authority, was in Norway. Dennis Ross, the American envoy who has been mediating the discussions for the past three weeks, returned to Washington yesterday.

Jews and Muslims in the city have accused each other of

stockpiling weapons in advance of the Israeli withdrawal from 85 per cent of the urban area, which American officials still predict will take place before Christmas. Yesterday settlers in Hebron hurled insults and spat at Palestinian Authority leaders visiting the city.

During the funeral about 5,000 mourners vowed to avenge Himi Shosha as his body was laid to rest in his village shortly before the area was placed under Israeli curfew. The scenes of renewed violence underscored the volatile situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, where armed clashes last month left 75 dead.

Mourners, angered by the Government's support for the settlers, carried banners saying: "Get the Nazis out of our land" and "the criminal settler must be hanged". The suspect was remanded in custody until Friday. Tensions were unlikely to be eased by the news that the Israeli Government had approved the con-

struction of 8,000 homes in three Jewish settlements on the West Bank in an area 25 miles northwest of Jerusalem.

With leaders of the 450 Jews living in the centre of Hebron and those of the 120,000 Palestinians that surround them both giving warnings of a bloodbath, the newspaper *Maariv* said: "Worrying signs are increasing that the extreme Right might take extreme measures, even against the Netanyahu Government, if and when the Hebron deployment is decided upon."

Although Israeli paratroopers guard every inch of Hebron's "Martyrs' Road" between the Tomb of the Patriarchs and the main Jewish settlement of Beit Hadassah, it is impossible to ignore the loathing in the eyes of passing Arabs who glare from beside such wall slogans as "Death to the Jews".

The stubbornness and extremism of Hebron's Jews is matched by that of its fervent Islamic Arab residents.



The aftermath of the Gulf War as seen from the *Atlantis* space shuttle. Plumes of black smoke rise into space from Kuwaiti oil fields set on fire by retreating Iraqi troops



Burning oil fields in Kuwait threatened ecological disaster

Spacemen's view of scorched earth policy

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

THREE giant palls of smoke reach up from Kuwait into space. This photograph, *The Aftermath of the Gulf War*, was taken in April 1991 from the *Atlantis* shuttle, on the shuttle's first flight after the end of the war two months earlier.

Astronauts Jerry Ross and Ken Cameron woke up early in order to take the picture of the burning oil fields, one of the earliest and most vivid

testimonies to the damage inflicted by Iraq. Iraqi troops set fire to numerous well heads as they retreated in the face of intense Allied attacks.

The picture is included in a 224-page book of photographs taken by astronauts out of personal interest rather than technical requirements during the past 34 years. *Orbit: NASA astronauts photograph the earth* is published by National Geographic.

Israelis appalled by tasteless line in 'Nazi' fashion

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

MANY of Israel's Holocaust survivors were outraged yesterday by reports that a new fashion has hit the country and is being snapped up by fashion-conscious young Israelis: boots, purses and shoes made out of shiny black leather that bears the brand name "Nazi".

The tasteless new fad, among a younger generation already shocking older Israelis by its reluctance to serve in the army was disclosed on the front page of the biggest selling Tel Aviv newspaper *Yediot Aharonot*.

The newspaper quoted salesmen and saleswomen explaining to their Jewish customers: "This is a shiny black leather material which is called 'Nazi' after the leather boots worn by the Nazis. The models have just come out and they will be the hit of the winter."

Sigalit Shahor, a reporter, found that in one shop belonging to the popular Grosse Mode fashion chain, the name "Nazi" was clearly printed on a shoe box as well as on the soles of the shoes.

The owner of the chain of boutiques told the newspaper: "The name 'Nazi leather' has become fashionable in many

places, not only in our stores. Phone the manufacturer of the shoes and ask them what is going on."

A *Yediot* investigation found that the new material was also the rage in young women's purses. It said that trendy Israeli customers were asking for the leather by its "Nazi" brand-name in shops and that there were Israeli sales staff actively trying to promote the fashion despite its terrible historical connotations.

In one shop visited by Ms Shahor, she reported that a salesgirl tried to persuade me to purchase one of the new purses. "It is high quality material and does not get dirty," the salesgirl boasted. "All of the boots worn by the Nazis during the Second World War were made out of this material."

Many Israelis have been shocked by the newspaper report. "I just cannot believe what I am reading and hearing," said a Jewish businesswoman who emigrated from Manchester 25 years ago. "To think that this is happening here is incredible and a deep insult to the six million Jews who died at the hands of the Nazis."

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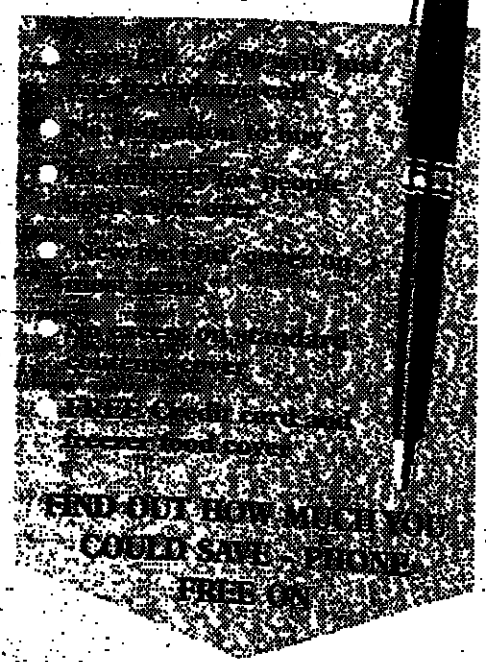
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FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

could be kept at around 2.5 per cent — that is within the Maastricht criteria. But the independent economists, representing forecasting centres

loggerheads, especially over tax reform. The Christian Democrats want to raise some taxes, increase revenue and reduce the need for further borrowing; the Free Democrats believe they can survive at the ballot box only if they are clearly identified as the

time since Chancellor Kohl — who this week becomes the longest-serving German leader this century — has referred to Mr Major in such glowing terms. German politicians make no secret that they are waiting for a Labour government or, with even more enthusiasm, a Liberal-Labour pact.

By MICHAEL EVANS
REFERENCE CORRESPONDENT

Despite recent reports to the contrary, defence sources confirmed yesterday that there were still a few US nuclear bombs stored in Britain. In the past the Americans have stored about 500 nuclear

Kurdish blast

Somali attack

Mogadishu: Unidentified gunmen killed 13 people and wounded 16 in an attack on a south Mogadishu restaurant in an area loyal to Somali faction leader Hussein Aidid. (Reuters)

Asia trade fears

Sydney: Tension between Australia and its Asian neighbours is growing in a row over immigration. John Howard, the Prime Minister, accused Asian newspapers of misrepresenting his views. (Reuters)

Stargazer dies

Paris: Madame Soleil, the most famous astrologer in France, whose predictions were broadcast for more than 20 years and who reputedly advised François Mitterrand, has died here, aged 83. (AFP)

Author takes aim at new 'Jackal' film

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

Mr Forsyth's book, and the classic 1973 film based on it starring Edward Fox, was about a lone assassin's attempt on the life of Charles de Gaulle, the French President. The new film is about a former IRA hitman who is

Mr. Forsyth's skirmish in the creative world's age-old battle for intellectual property

rights adds weight to an earlier attack on Universal by Frederick Zinnemann, 89, the director of the original film, who has accused the studio of hijacking the title. "Beware the anger of a patient man", he told the *Los Angeles Times* at the weekend, likening Universal to a lunatic smashing art in a museum. "I am a patient man but I'm in a state of rage about this."

The studio is legally immune, however, since it owns the rights to the book.

Immigrants in Paris sit-in

checks at police headquarters. This summer some 300 Africans occupied a Paris church for two months

claiming controversial 1993 laws had turned them into illegal immigrants. The Government granted residence permits to many of them on humanitarian grounds but others are still waging court battles to avoid expulsion. (Reuters)

Albania wins back £13m of looted gold

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

MORE than 50 years after the Nazis looted its treasury, Albania yesterday took possession of more than 11,000 lb of gold, worth nearly £13 million, that has been stored in the vaults of the Bank of England. The ingots are expected to be shipped back to Tirana before the end of the year.

After a day of talks with a high-level Albanian delegation, Emrys Davies, the Secretary General of the Tripartite

Gold Commission set up by the Western Allies at the end of the Second World War, said: "This is the last major single share of the commission's gold pool to be settled. The commission will proceed with preparations for the final distribution of the remaining gold to the claimant Governments."

Ten Governments will receive gold from Britain and America, where it has been stored since 1946.

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Tomorrow night Hugo Boss, the giant German menswear fashion company, will lend its support not to British fashion but to British theatre. In a joint initiative with *The New Yorker* magazine they are sponsoring a glam-packed gala benefit in aid of The Royal Court Theatre, an event that officially will mark the start of the theatre's renovation.

"We hope this event will help to keep the Royal Court's spirit of creativity alive," says Peter Littmann, chairman and CEO of Hugo Boss AG. "The achievements of the theatre company, particularly its



Fashion journalist of the year
IAIN R. WEBB

reputation for fostering new talent, ties in perfectly with the philosophies behind Hugo Boss's commitment to arts projects." The company has a long-term partnership with the Guggenheim Museum in New York.

The benefit will feature original cast members in scenes from some of the Royal Court's major productions. A fashionable spin to Hugo Boss's funding plan means that the Royal Court's artistic director, Stephen Daldry, will be dressed exclusively by the German clothing company for a year.

The Royal Court company is operating between The Ambassadors and the Duke of York's Theatre in London's West End. Their first production at the Duke of

York's is *Mojo*, a play by Jez Butterworth set in the twilight world of 1950s Soho.

Backstage the all-male cast of *Mojo* eagerly size up a rail laden with Hugo Boss suits. Dressed in combinations of black, silver grey and creamy white, the actors begin to resemble their shady stage characters: the pointy-collared shirts and sharp-as-a-razor suits that act as an alternative to conventional eveningwear certainly have a gangster feel.

"I'm not exactly a suit man," says Darren Tighe, yet he is happy to wear a shiny silver-grey three-piece suit and matching shirt.

Not that these actors haven't had a brush with fashion. On stage both Neil Stuke and Callum Dixon wear made-to-measure suits by celebrity Soho tailor Mark Powell, who counts Kate Moss and Mick Jagger among his clientele.

"Pleat peg trousers and shorter jackets — very Italian," says Stuke as he reclines in the front row of the stalls wearing an ivory white suit, black shirt and off-white tie, moodily chewing a matchstick. "Method modelling," says a voice in the wings.

NEIL STUKE

Above: Stage credits include *The Philanderer* and *View from a Bridge* alongside television appearances on *Between the Lines*, wears white suit, £520, black shirt, £39, cream silk tie, £39, Hugo.

DARREN TIGHE

Above left: Never off the small screen in *Cracker* and *A Touch of Frost*, wears metallic three-piece suit, £480, metallic shirt, £89, Boss.

PAUL REYNOLDS

Above right: Has appeared in everything from *Absolutely Fabulous* to *Punk's Not Dead* at the Edinburgh Festival, wears black shiny jacket, £325, white cotton shirt, £75, Boss.

CALLUM DIXON

Above far right: Off-stage credits include the film *Waterlands*, wears a black creased jacket, £325, matching trousers, £130, pleated wing-collared shirt, £95, blue bow-tie (part of set with cummerbund) £79, Boss.

SIMON KUNZ

Right: Lists *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Barnstorming* and *King Lear* among his stage appearances, wears cream evening jacket and black side-strip trousers (sold as suit), £550, black poplin shirt, £99, Boss.

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Nigella Lawson on the working mother's dilemma: plus, the first woman to join the Tory Whips Office

Childcare: the taboo and the hypocrisy



The closest bond of all — but does this baby really need its mother available all day?

A couple of weeks or so ago, when writing about new research on abortion, I castigated those people with an agenda who refused to consider evidence if it pointed to truths they found unpalatable. Now, I find myself constrained as never before. For I run the risk of offending my friends.

Perhaps it would be to overstate the case to describe the pamphlet by the Institute of Economic Affairs on the damaging effects on children of being put into daycare as 'evidence', but just because its findings are opinion, and very much ideologically driven, doesn't mean we should dismiss them. The reason I now run the risk of offending my friends is because all of my contemporaries go out to work. Consequently, my generation has a vested interest in proving that this does not harm children. Unfortunately, just because we wish something to be, doesn't make it so.

I am not saying that going out to work does damage children, but it must affect them. And I do feel a rather Blair-like equivocation on this one. I don't think I could go out all day, and I certainly wouldn't want to, but I feel passionately that it's not for me to dictate how other women lead their lives. Besides, as I am constantly reminded, and accept without question, I am very lucky: I get the best of both worlds. I can earn money without having to leave my children; my life is deeply, pleasurably domestic

and yet I feel I exist in the outside world, too.

I concede that most women don't have these options, but the subject must still be faced. And there is so much not spewed on this one: everyone has something to prove. Those who stay at home (or, more often, exhort others to do so) are smug in their assumed superiority; those who go out to work are defensively resistant to the idea that their children might suffer as a result.

It is true that small children want to be with their mothers. Uncomfortable as it is to admit in the modern ideological climate, they are unconcerned by the routine absence (as opposed to permanent non-presence) of their fathers. In fact, children now — at least those of the professional middle classes — are in many ways better off than we and those before us were.

Fathers now are unquestionably more involved in childcare. This has to be a good thing, benefiting father, child and mother.

But the stakes are high in this particular debate — indeed, there are none higher — and it is hardly surprising if everyone argues a little too hysterically. Lynette Burrows, writing in *The Sunday Telegraph*, exemplifies a certain sort of misguided passion by arguing that "the chief cause of juvenile delinquency is the working woman".

There are a few confused prejudices here. The career woman — selfish, ambitious,



Nigella Lawson

unwilling to make the necessary sacrifices for her children and family — is a familiar figure of abuse.

But we all know that it is not the children of such women who are the juvenile delinquents Lynette Burrows has in mind. These are more likely to be the children of the long-term unemployed, whose fathers, if they are around at all, are out of work, and whose mothers need to earn what they can to keep the family going. If they don't go out to work, then they need to be supported by the State and are then written-off as workshy scroungers. Either way around, a woman's place is in the wrong.

But there are hard truths about going out to work and leaving children all day. Not

least, that it is very much harder to be a mother. Quality time is phooey, an Eighties concept designed to make us all feel better. Not only do children not appreciate the odd ten minutes or two hours that parents can graciously give them, it is much harder for the parents, too. The truth is, parents who spend little time with their children feel they have to be a lot nicer to them. In other words, the problem is not so much that of neglect, than of indulgence.

If you spend all day with a child, it is easier to risk being hated. And one has to be hated some of the time: children may benefit by being treated firmly, but they hardly thank you for it. But if you see your child for only a few hours at breakfast and bedtime and at weekends, then you won't want to risk any conflict in that time: you will want to enjoy being with them and have them enjoy being with you. But instead of making for an easier, more harmonious time, it inevitably leads to more conflict: parents who are afraid that by checking their children they will be disliked for it, give in to them. This, in the long term, makes children more rather than less likely to have tantrums.

We accuse working mothers of visiting all forms of ill on their children, but it wasn't always so. Women with children, widowed and left penniless in the war, who worked all hours to bring up their children, were applauded as plucky, the backbone of their families and the country. So what is different now? The

family. Women who went out to work then could rely on their own mothers, aunts, sisters and so forth to help with the children. Few of us have that now.

And as I said last week, 13-year-old Sarah Taylor, with her large family, has, in this one respect, an advantage over her contemporaries.

It is all very well to demonise childcare, but the nanny or, perhaps even more, the childminder, is probably the best stand-in for the extended family. Daycare centres are less easy to celebrate. Rather than promising affordable daycare centres, the Government should subsidise and encourage more registered childminders. That way, at least, children would be placed each day in a family environment.

Professional working mothers are so attacked that they are running for comfort, telling themselves and others that they long to stay at home. If only they had the choice.

"The great taboo", this was called in a magazine recently: more like the great hypocrisy.

There are many women who work because they have no choice, but those who bang on about how unhappy they are doing so, do not — in my experience — belong to that category. These are the ones who want to work (and there is nothing wrong in that), but just don't want to be criticised for it. It is not the working mother, but the self-deluding mother who runs the greatest risk of damaging her children.

'Miss Whiplass' takes control

Deep inside the Gothic corridors of the Palace of Westminster lies a dingy room filled with cigar smoke, testosterone, intrigue and suspense. Most Tory MPs dread a summons to this room. Potential rebels scuttle past the door and defectors give it an even wider berth. This is the Conservative Whips Office, the reputed repository of the little black book, detailing the sexual and financial misdemeanours of MPs, and the place where the Tory hierarchy wields its sticks and carrots in daily pursuit of an increasingly elusive government majority.

No woman has ever joined this inner sanctum. Even Margaret Thatcher never got to swing her handbag here. But now, more than three-quarters of a century after Winston Churchill said that a woman in the House of Commons was like a woman in his bathroom, the last parliamentary male bastion has fallen. This summer Jacqui Lait became the first woman to be asked by the Tory whips to join their band of brothers and last week she took up her post.

If the men thought she

Better quality wine and less whingeing. Alice Thomson interviews Jacqui Lait

would tip-toe timidously through the first few days in her new role, they were wrong. She may have been wearing a powder-pink suit, but within seconds Mrs Lait had her feet on the desk, her extra-large Kleenex in the top drawer and was complaining about the lack of a kettle. She volunteered for one of the toughest jobs, trawling the tea-room to talk to recalcitrant backbenchers and she roared with laughter when *The Sun* dubbed her Miss Whiplass.

Her colleagues in the Whips Office say she is already one of the boys. Ambitious MPs on the outside, who all compete for this pivotal first step towards a ministerial career, claim that she may have been one all along.

They whisper that she has never had any children, let alone changed a nappy, her hair looks as though it was cut by the House barber, she has a deeper voice than Nicholas Soames and she drives a very masculine Jaguar. They also mutter that when she arrived



Jacqui Lait: "Whipping, like stripping, is best done in private"

with the 1992 intake, she had the temerity to complain not about the paucity of ladies' loos but the quality of the wine. But meeting Mrs Lait for lunch it is soon apparent that she is not the female shotput of the House of Commons. She is strong, attractive, and engagingly frank.

She admits the story about wine is true. "When I arrived at Westminster all there was was this awful Italian wine lake stuff in two-litre bottles. A woman likes a nice glass of wine with her plate of cheese, so yes I did complain," she says. On children she is equally blunt. "I remember when I was about 12 walking down the High Street and watching all these young mothers with whingeing babies. It put my teeth on edge and I thought, 'I never want one of those. I would end up battering it.' The sentiment stuck. I have

been married 22 years and I have absolutely no maternal instincts. When my husband proposed, I was thrilled but the first thing I asked him was, "Do you want to have children? Because I have other things I want to do." My mother puts it down to the fact that my father died when I was 12 and I helped to bring up my younger brothers, so I have done it once."

Mrs Lait thinks her career has been made "massively easier" because she didn't have children but she says that shouldn't disqualify her from the female race. She doesn't like shopping but makes her own clothes instead and gets her hair cut by Robert at the Berkeley every three weeks.

The daughter of two textile agents in Renfrewshire, she was educated at Paisley Grammar School before

Strathclyde University. "I've wanted to be an MP since I was eight, when my godmother Pat Hornsby-Smith, then Tory MP for Chisleworth, took me round this place and I was smitten. It got me in the gut."

But getting selected was difficult. The blue-rinse shire ladies were looking for eligible bachelors or married men they could respect. She didn't find a seat until her early forties, working meanwhile for the Government Information Service and then running her own lobbying company.

She didn't read Machiavelli before taking up the whip's job but she did spend the summer working out some tactics in between opening fires. "There are different ways of being tough, some people respond to hard man, soft man tactics, some to persuasion and others like to be flattered," she says. Her Paisley vowels can either be wonderfully soothing or terrifying and are mixed with lots of "bless you".

She is one of a rare breed of politicians who is not trying to jump on the moral bandwagon. But she will not mollycoddle any male MP who admits to an affair and is very aware that one of her duties is to stamp on sleaze. "Women are working too hard to have affairs here. Men should follow their example," she says briskly. She also expects them to dress properly and to control themselves in the House. "This is a place of dignity and respect and they must treat it as such."

She is not allowed to talk about policy any more and refuses to confirm whether there is a black book. Whipping, like stripping, she reminds you, is best done in private.

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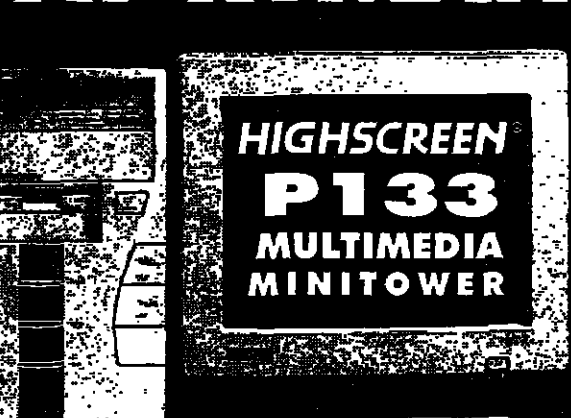
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The real scandal of our schools

Melanie Phillips defends her critique of moral relativism

Britain is in the grip of a culture war. In one camp are the libertarian individualists, who won't distinguish between good and bad behaviour because they think the equality of free choices is sacrosanct. In the other are those who think judgment between right and wrong and an assertion of the common good are essential for a civilised society. These divisions explain the ferocity with which my book about education, *All Must Have Prizes*, has been received. Much of the reaction by the education establishment and other cultural custodians has been hysterical and personally malicious. Many teachers and parents, on the other hand, say they endorse every word.

The book argues that moral norms have frayed because of a breakdown of the role of education in nurturing the young. It was once axiomatic that parents and teachers had a duty to transmit to the young a body of knowledge and values, to initiate them into their culture and into the human condition itself. Now, however, the moral hierarchy which set adults in authority over children has been eroded. The idea that there is any superior wisdom or authority to be transmitted has been undermined, with catastrophic effects in the classroom no less than in family life.

There are many very good teachers and excellent schools, just as many parents are giving their children a sound upbringing. But the cards are stacked against them. Their authority has been weakened by moral and cultural relativism, which has relocated authority from institutions such as families, churches and schools to the individual. Now all of us, including children, feel entitled to be our private moral authority.

Teachers have become victims of this subjectivity, along with their pupils, since this free-for-all has sounded the retreat from teaching and from knowledge itself. Educational orthodoxy holds that the teacher is no longer the key to unlocking the mysteries of the world. Instead, children must discover history or science or maths for themselves. The child's creativity is regarded as the highest good, and rules and facts are falsely portrayed as enemies of that creativity.

Many primary teachers don't understand how children learn to read, or that the great majority can do so quite quickly, regardless of their social circumstances, provided they are taught properly. They don't know this because teacher training colleges give them a thinly veiled ideology designed to transfer "power" from teacher to pupil. Educational texts aimed at teachers of initial reading contain mind-bending redefinitions of reading itself. Guessing the rough meaning of words through picture clues or by memorising words from having stories read over and over again is considered "readable behaviour". Errors aren't corrected, and actual reading ability measurable by tests is dismissed as merely reading "decontextualised print" — which most people would take to be what reading actually is.

The belief that teaching any rules at all is "Gradingism" has meant that many children aren't taught the structure of language or the immutable certainties of mathematics. The result is that professors report that students with record numbers of A grades at A-level are unable to cope with degree work and have to join remedial classes to learn what once would have been taught to 12-year-olds.

Accuracy and correctness, which are also essential to morality, lie in ruins in mainstream educational thinking. Some French GCSE courses, for example, now assume that children need not be taught word-endings, because the aim is merely for them to get the gist. They are expected to pick up grammar by osmosis, just as small children are supposed to learn to read. At the root of all this is a disarming confusion of roles. Expecting children to make their own way without adequate educational maps is to treat them as premature adults.

Destructive processes are also at work in the family, where rules, structures and boundaries are dissolving in the face of the relentless march of adults' and children's "rights". As children are given adult responsibilities, adults are infantilised. The permanent commitment and care inherent in parental duty have become conditional upon adult "rights" to sexual gratification and personal fulfilment, which have contributed to the fracture of the two-parent family. Parental authority has been undermined by the inappropriate doctrine of children's autonomy, which has made punishment taboo and discipline a dirty word. So at home and at school, the narrative which anchors children in time and place, and against which they can securely define themselves, has fragmented.

It is surprising, then, that more and more children seek attention through outrageous or criminal behaviour, and suffer increasing rates of depression, eating disorders, educational underachievement and other signs of confusion and distress?

This betrayal of children has been brought about largely by the self-regarding elites which, despite much pious posturing, display precious little understanding of the needs of our most vulnerable citizens. Leading educationalists who have built their careers on quackery now seek, together with sneering metropolitanists and other eminent custodians of the culture, to shut down the argument by denying the evidence of educational, family and moral collapse. So in a further flight from reason and objectivity, the testimony of teachers, examiners, inspectors, university professors, education psychologists, parents and pupils in my book is dismissed as invention or caricature.

The situation is both dangerous and hopeful. The danger is that this political and moral vacuum is vulnerable to demagoguery, and so threatens liberal democracy itself. The hope arises from the anger being expressed by ordinary people, which may give rise to a new politics that will reassess true liberal values.

The author is a columnist for The Observer.



Major can come back

The Tories should copy Clinton: forget morality and stick to the economy

When I was in Washington two years ago, Bill Clinton was the most unpopular President in modern history. His approval rating had sunk below 40 per cent. He was mired in sexual and financial sleaze. White House staff dealt in four-letter words. The Republicans had won control of both houses of Congress. Commentators declared that America was returning to the pre-New Deal era. Newt Gingrich was tipped for President. Not one analyst gave Clinton a chance of re-election in 1996.

I was duly convinced that Mr Clinton could not fail. He could not fail because the Republican Congress would not deliver on its half-budget programme and because the budget deficit would ensure an economic boom in time for the 1996 campaign. So it has proved. Washington last week was suffering total amnesia about 1994. Mr Clinton is nowhere to be seen. The economy is in excellent shape and Mr Clinton is about to be re-elected.

Now take a deep breath and return to Britain. Ministers gather each morning in Downing Street like an exhausted repertory troupe, poring over their press notices and wailing at the unfairness of it all. They ask Gillian Shepherd stage a mass flogging of every child in the land? Would that do? Should a gibbet be erected in Whitehall for the ritual hanging of single mothers, probation officers, school truants and handbag owners? There must be some votes in that. Can this ensemble really do a Clinton and win next April?

Of course they can. In a two-horse race the favourite can always stumble. In a democracy there are, as Lady Thatcher said, no final victories. Nor are there final defeats. The only question asked of clients by enterprise gurus is: do you sincerely want to win? The present Cabinet appears to have given up. Many of its members are fighting a post-election leadership contest, which is a wholly different struggle.

Let us return to the Clinton renaissance. His mid-term standing two years ago seemed desperate — but only seemed so. Analysts misread the President's disapproval rating as reflecting a seismic shift in the political character of America. Yet the Democrats scored exactly the same proportion of the poll in those congressional elections (43 per cent) as they did when Mr Clinton was elected in 1992. The difference in 1992

was that Ross Perot divided the anti-Clinton vote. By the same token, though Mr Clinton's approval rating is now back up to 60 per cent, I still believe he may not win the landslide suggested by the polls. With polls wildly variable, even pollsters are hedging their bets with talk of a 10-point margin of error.

The moral of the story is the old one, that polls can seriously damage your analysis. Back in Britain, the Conservatives appear to be in Mr Clinton's bind of two years ago. As yet, the usual "recovery" as an election approaches has not occurred.

Simon Jenkins

The biggest obstacle to closing the gap is at present the Tory party itself. Only one campaign tactic should be in the frame: to convert the rise in economic optimism into a fear that Labour will wreck it all. This needs the Tory waverers of 1992 to give greater weight to the economy than polls claim they do at present. The economy and taxation are two issues on which the Tories are still ahead of Labour on competence. If 1992 is any guide, an inclination to vote Tory is a hidden secret for these waverers, shared only with the curtain and the pencil of the polling booth. The secret is fear about money, fear for the purse. Perhaps new Labour cannot handle the economy better than old Labour. Perhaps, whatever Mr Blair says, he will indeed increase taxes. The waverer wavers, perhaps I am not doing too badly and should plump for the devil I know. Let others take a risk, I am for security.

Britain's economy is doing remarkably well at present. Apart from the mini-slump, it ranks only after America and Japan for competitiveness (according to the World Economic Forum ranking). The Government seems incapable of getting this onto its political platform. Instead it throws mud at itself. Not a day passes without a government spokes-

man bellowing that Britain has gone to the dogs under the Tories. Tory Britain is portrayed as morally barren. Its schools seethe with truancy and violence. Hospitals face financial catastrophe. Streets teem with the detritus of welfare failure. Prisons are bursting with criminality. Legislation is rushed through Parliament each week to control some new moral fungus dropped up by the press. And then ministers whinge that the nation refuses to feel good.

This is ludicrous. Tories have always won elections by telling the public "You've never had it so good", not "You've never been so bad". This used to be the party of prosperity and optimism, not the bleak Dotheboys' Hall of today's Department of Education or Home Office, telling Britons each day how awful they have become. On education, Labour leads by three to one. The Tories should shut up about schools. Labour leads the Tories on health by six to one. The Tories should shut up about health. Unemployment and welfare give Labour a five-to-one lead; even on law and order the parties are neck and neck. All these ministers should be gagged and shackled to their desks.

The Government has two sound assets at present. One is the honesty and likeability of the Prime Minister and his deputy, Michael Heseltine. The other is the state of the economy, in the hands of the Cabinet's next best-known personality, Kenneth Clarke. Here is the one remotely plausible core of electoral recovery. Here and nowhere else.

Mr Clinton has rebuilt his popularity this past year on a simple message. The job of government is the prosperity of the people. If you want re-election you must tell them how well they are doing with your help. In America, Democrat strategists have shut down every other issue. Nobody is permitted to mention crime, schools, cities, drugs, welfare. The message is, as always, "the economy, stupid!". The British Government seems to choke on this message. Yet it must persuade the same 43 per cent of the electorate who have loyally supported it at the past four elections to do so again. This patently means putting the nation's current economic prosperity at the centre of the political stage, and ending the inane rant from Downing Street about the state of the public's morals.

Of course the Tories can win the election. They will find it very hard. So why make it harder every day?

Labour blues

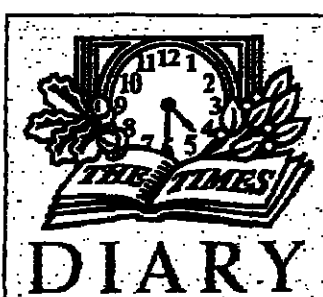
MATTHEW HARDING'S contribution to the Labour Party was not limited to swelling its coffers, it has emerged. The Guinness-drinking vice-chairman of Chelsea FC had been advising Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, on the financial aspects of Labour's manifesto. His death robs the party of one of its best links with the City and in particular, the complex insurance market.

Recent months have seen some aggressive courting of the City by both Brown and his deputy, Alisdair Darling. Harding, who had given £600,000 of his promised £1 million to the Labour Party by the time he died last week, met Brown more than once to discuss City policy. When he found time to tear himself away from Stamford Bridge, he was a regular at Tony Blair's dining table.

"He was a useful point of reference in the City," was all Mr Blair's office would say yesterday. Others, however, were more forthcoming on the man who is mourned as much in the City as on the terraces: "Matthew provided Labour with a link with the City," said one

pinstripe. "But more than that, he lent the party credibility where it needs it most."

● Bad news for the ENO as it warms up for next month's premiere of Bernd Alois Zimmermann's opera *Die Soldaten*, a huge sprawling German affair. The lead tenor, Jon Garrison, is in hospital with a broken arm and bruised ribs after a jogging acci-



dent. Breathing is difficult for him, and long passages are proving a trial. *Die Soldaten* is full of long passages.

Of opportunity

WITH the presidential election looming in America, there is already talk of likely successors to Admiral William Crowe as Ambassador to London. Crowe, now 71, is expected to retire soon after the election. In recent weeks he has had both the Queen and the Prime Minister round for dinner, an indication that he may be saying his goodbyes.

The most colourful entrant in the race to succeed him is Swane Hunt, a Texan oil heiress and friend of Hillary Clinton, whose

family have a large stake in the Lanesborough Hotel in London. Some lessons in diplomatic subtlety, however, may be in order for Mrs Hunt. On a recent visit to New Delhi, which comes after London on her list, she was seen measuring the windows at the American Embassy for curtains.

Agent Ashley

OUT OF retirement on behalf of new Labour comes a stalwart of the old school, Sir Ashley Bramall, now aged 80 and the ripest election agent around.

A former member of the Greater London Council, Sir Ashley has



Bramall: party loyalty

been a signed-up Labour man ever since 1935. Elder brother of Field Marshal Lord Bramall, he is campaigning on behalf of Mrs Mair Garside, 65, who stands as a prospective Labour candidate for Westminster City Council next month. "I'm vintage Labour, really," he says, "but I'm a great supporter of Tony Blair."

Half-baked

AMONG the more interesting races for the US Senate is one in Alaska, where the incumbent Republican, Ted Stevens, is being challenged by one Theresa Obermeyer, Democrat.

Mrs Obermeyer, reports the *Congressional Quarterly*, is obsessed with her husband's failure to pass the Alaska bar exam after nearly two dozen attempts. She blames Stevens and follows him to public events where she interrogates him dressed in a prisoner's black-and-white stripes with accompanying ball-and-chain. Stevens has now accused Mrs Obermeyer of stalking him.

● This week's *Woman's Weekly* magazine carries an interesting feature about how to minimise the risk of having a heart attack on fla-

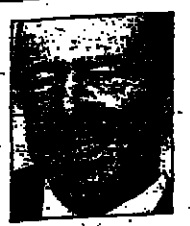


Just modelling

grante, entitled "Make Sex even Safer". Illustrating the piece is this picture of a mature couple, fully clothed and comfortably entwined. The woman gazing alluringly from the page is none other than Sandra Howard, model, and model wife of the Home Secretary. Sadly, the man nuzzling her neck is not her husband.

P.H.S

Alan Coren



How our great leaders could at last start to earn their keep

I was smoking one of Chairman Mao's cigarettes this morning and gazing at John Major's tie, when something flashed upon that inward eye which is the bliss of solitude, especially for those with 800 words to cobble.

Solitude, being what it is, you will immediately appreciate that neither great leader was actually with me, the one being in a mausoleum and in no position to hand his flags round, and the other being in Cabinet and in no position to sit and chew the Crickwood fat, whatever his accessories: the cigarette was Chairman Mao's only insofar as that was its brand name, as anyone with a smattering of Mandarin could see from the packet, and the Prime Minister was flashing his tie at me only from the illustration to a newspaper article about the increasing prominence of his neckwear, as anyone with a smattering of nameness could see from the knot.

The packet of Maos had been brought back for me from Peking by a foreign-corresponding friend, together with a couple of those brain-breaking statistics which invariably accompany anything about China — in this case the facts that, as the country's most popular brand, four billion Maos are smoked every day, and that, as a source of profit to the State, which owns the brand, they are worth £6 billion a year. And the reason they are the most popular brand is not down simply to posthumous reverence for the ex-Chairman, but also to the fact that though he himself smoked 60 of them a day, he did not become ex until he was 83.

How could all this not focus the inward eye upon the matter of Mr Major's smart new knot? For while he may not be held in quite the same gobsmecked reverence as Mao Tse-tung, some 15 million Britons are currently prepared to vote for his continuation as leader, and that is a lot of ties, especially with Christmas coming up.

Were, therefore, the State to found a neckwear factory to pump out an exclusive John Major range of the sort of spots and stripes calculated instantly to commend themselves to the tastes of his followers, might the Exchequer not find itself sitting on a goldmine second only to the lottery as a source of new funding? Never mind first to the lottery as a source of new employment, for what is one Mystic Meg and one Anthea Turner, compared with 500 hand-knitters?

And why stop there? There is a whole governmental of profit-pregnant euphemisms ready to turn loyal cash-registers into a national carillon. Tell me that there is no market for Heseltine Haircare Products or Pordillo For Him male fragrances, and I will reply that you have as scant a grasp of Torridolity as if you had said that Sir Nicholas Scott could not shift as many cases of Auld Nick Quick-Action Single Malt as the national distillery could turn out, or that a range of Ginny Bottomley lingerie would not drive Janet Reger and La Perla into Carey Street, or that a chain of Colonel. Staines Kentucky Fried Whole Roast Oxen would not take the nation by storm, or that packets of Maltors would not change the weekend habits of millions.

Not or is it, surely, too late, even now, to bring dewy-eyed millions rushing to handbag counters to snap up Really Big Thatcher, designed not merely to propagandise the new national need to carry fat wads of enterprise proceeds, but also the need to protect these against enemies of law and order who might fancy their mugging chances, only to be laid out cold with a single nostalgic swing.

You will say fine, what a wonderful idea, once again he has stepped into the national breach and saved its bacon, but is there no piece of this visionary action for our great Chancellor of the Exchequer? But of course there is. Because what will this extraordinary generation of unexpected governmental income bring as a further inevitable boom? If not the literally golden opportunity for him to introduce those precious votemongering tax-cuts to which he has hitherto been unwilling to commit himself?

To say nothing of a fair few bob from Kernikins Little Cheroots.



PLAYING WITH FIREWORKS

Morality in politics has to be handled with care

Since Frances Lawrence launched her manifesto for an ethical renaissance in this newspaper, ministers and shadow ministers have jostled each other for a place in her limelight. Their attempts to have her moral rectitude reflected on them have been alternately opportunistic and clumsy. Yesterday saw an example that was both at once.

Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, appearing on Radio 4's *Today* programme, seemed to support the idea of corporal punishment being reintroduced in schools. She was trying both to clothe herself in this week's modish moral garments, while simultaneously stealing headlines from her shadow, David Blunkett, who was launching his party's policy on home-school contracts.

By the end of the morning, though, Mrs Shephard had been publicly slapped down by her own Prime Minister. John Major's spokesman made it quite clear that corporal punishment would not form part of this session's Education Bill; nor would the Government support any backbench amendment to that end. Mrs Shephard had to break off in the middle of a speech to take his call; and was forced to announce in the Commons that she and the Prime Minister were at odds, but that government policy in her own department would diverge from her personal views.

Cynics read the Education Secretary's behaviour as an attempt to make herself popular with the Right, which has been disappointed with her tenure at education. No ambitious Cabinet minister these days can afford to ignore the election after next, at which a new Tory leader will be chosen. But the effect of her actions is to add to the damage that the recent auction of moral promises has done to the Government's reputation.

In the course of a week, ministers have

stumbled each time that they have tried to attune policies to the new national mood. On gun control, they were outflanked by Labour. On legislation on stalking and paedophiles, they were forced into an embarrassing U-turn. On combat knives, they had to concede the principle of a ban. On corporal punishment, the about-turn was effected within hours. But the consequences live on. There is no doubt that an amendment will be put to the Education Bill, seeking to bring back the cane. Mrs Shephard will have to oppose it.

The language of morality was until recently an unfamiliar tongue for politicians. It shows. After 17 years of emphasising economic determinism, ministers have grown rusty. Tony Blair has had a little more practice. But even he has fallen foul of the law that says that moral pronouncements gather a momentum of their own. Having spoken of his opposition to abortion, he is now under fire for voting against his personal views, and for not changing his party's policy on the issue.

As we argued yesterday, morality has its rightful place in the political discourse. But it has to be handled delicately. Mr Major discovered when he embarked upon his "back to basics" philosophy that ethical crusades can all too easily rebound on the politicians who launch them. They tend to have ramifications well beyond their progenitors' original intentions.

That is why they should not be made up on the hoof, as Mrs Shephard seemed to be doing yesterday. Moral matters deserve lengthy consideration, rather than exploitation for instant political gain by politicians of either side seeking to trump their opponents. Like playing with fireworks, introducing the language of morality to politics can be dangerous; unless handled with care, it has a habit of blowing up in the politician's face.

TARNISHED GOLD

Victims of the Nazis have had to wait too long for restitution

It seems barely credible that it has taken more than 50 years to compensate countries for the looting they suffered at the hands of the Nazis. Yesterday, however, the way was finally opened for Britain and America to transfer to ten claimant governments 5,100 kilograms of gold held in the Bank of England and 2,100 kilograms held in the Federal Reserve Bank. A settlement was reached in London with Albania, under which Tirana will pay compensation for the loss of two British destroyers sunk off the Albanian coast in 1946, and Britain will pay Tirana the residue of the gold looted by Germany from the Albanian treasury.

This sorry saga should have been brought to an end years ago. The legal wrangling and culpably tardy pace of negotiations are a standing reproach to Britain and the claimant governments. They have added to the frustration not only of the claimant governments but of thousands of Jewish families who have been told they cannot lodge individual claims in London but must wait until the money has returned to their home countries.

Public awareness of this lingering injustice was raised during the summer by the controversy over the separate but related question of the gold purchased from the Nazis by Switzerland. The World Jewish Restitution Organisation has pointed out that both the "bulion" recovered from Germany and held in Britain, as well as the ingots bought by Swiss banks, probably contained large amounts of gold looted from Jewish families, melted down and stamped by the Germans with a false prewar date. The organisation is therefore asking Britain not to hand over the gold directly to the ten governments, but to pay it instead to charities that will compensate Jewish fam-

ilies who suffered death and loss during the Holocaust.

Britain is sympathetic to this request. It is extremely unlikely, for example, that a country such as Yugoslavia, due to receive a share of the gold, will now accede to claims by Jews in Belgrade; the money instead will almost certainly be diverted to pay for the huge debts incurred by sanctions and the war in Bosnia. However, there is little that Britain can do: it is not British gold, and binding agreements have long been reached on its return.

The demand for restitution is a strong one, however, and is at the heart of two other related issues that have outraged world opinion. The first is the issue of the gold that Switzerland still holds. The Bernese Government was so stung by the furore, especially in Britain and America, that it appointed a special investigating commission. This will now start work in January, earlier than envisaged, by bypassing the need for a referendum. Swiss indignation may turn to embarrassment, however, if the investigators find more evidence similar to the deal Switzerland now admits it made with Poland over Jewish claims.

The second issue does not concern gold, but art looted from Austrian Jews. Only now has Austria made any real effort to trace the owners or sell masterpieces stored for years in museums and a monastery. The record bids at yesterday's auction indicate a guilty conscience that Austria has done too little to acknowledge complicity in Hitler's war machine or to compensate its victims. For many victims, the money yielded in all three cases is too late. Restitution is impossible for monstrous crimes; but compensation, if long overdue, is a moral obligation that has been left unpaid far too long.

CARS FOR COUPLETS

If you can meet with a Triumph or a Lanchester...

The man who offered Kipling a car in return for a mention in one of his works knew his poet. As our Arts Correspondent reports on page 8, paper-bags discovered in a drawer contain a hoard of Kipling papers. One offers Kipling a new Lanchester if he will immortalise the writer in print. The writer spells the name of the car wrong. But he recognises an old truth: *viva brevis, ars longa*. Any *Viva* now needs an MOT certificate, but Art lasts longer.

He also knew his man. In his short stories, Kipling was the first poet of the internal combustion engine. Before the M23 ran with tailbacks to Brighton, Kipling celebrated the joys of the open road. He started a genre of adventures with motoring which was later imitated by such successors as the wheel and gear-lever as Dornford Yates and Ian Fleming. Kipling refused the car, not because he disapproved of the bribe, but because he had only just got used to his present car.

Verse for perks is as old as poetry itself. Even poets must eat, and in this century they also like to drive a car. Since the beginning of poetry, it has been the privilege of the wealthy man to support the versifying man. Horace was given his Sabine farm as a bung from the new regime, and he made his patrons immortal in verses that few find fulsome. And even from the comfort of his new estate, Horace recognised that his masters had got a bargain. A good poem is a memorial that lasts even longer than a Rolls-

Royce. Brave heroes lived before Agamemnon. But nobody remembers them because they did not have a poet to pay for a mention.

Like all artists, Kipling drew on real people for his fictions. Where else than on the road can an artist find out what makes people or engines tick? Identifying the subtextual influences for such characters as Stalky and M'Turk is a literary industry. And Renaissance artists painted their patrons into their triptychs beside the saints. From Pope to Beethoven, writers have used verse to puff friends and hiss enemies.

So there is nothing unusual or improper in attempting to buy immortality from an artist. That trade-off has always been part of the arts market-place. In an age in which belief in physical immortality has dwindled, the lust for having one's name famous even for 15 minutes has spread from phone-ins to footballers' shirts.

A poem lasts longer than an election poster. But it needs to be by a poet as good on his day as Kipling. Perhaps his correspondent just did not offer a big enough sop. He should have tempted the car-crazy poet with a grander motor, if he came grander than Lanchesters. His attempt may not have been wasted. His letter will now earn somebody enough to buy at least a second-hand car. And for the attention of the Kipling industry, it might have influenced the poet when he was composing what has recently been voted the most popular poem in English. If all cars count with you, but none too much,

Church appeal for action on Zaïre

From the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Moderator of the Free Church Federal Council

Sir, No one needs to be reminded of the tragedy which befell Rwanda two years ago. Few will forget the scenes which filled our television screens in April and May of 1994.

At that time, the international community, including the Churches, stood accused of failing to take decisive action as those terrible events unfolded.

Today, we stand on the verge of renewed disaster in the region. New violence flares in Zaïre, and more people are dying every day. It threatens to draw in not only the Rwandan refugees living in Zaïre, but also the Rwandan Government and Army. It is unlikely that the Government of Burundi would stand aside, and Tanzania and Uganda would undoubtedly be affected by any international conflict in the region.

The world cannot stand by and watch again. No one wishes to interfere in the internal affairs of independent nations, but the people of that war-weary region of Central Africa can surely bear no more.

We appeal to the governments of the nations concerned to step back from the chaos of war. We urge leaders in other parts of the continent to exert influence upon their colleagues to bring the killings to an end. We call on all member states of the United Nations to take whatever steps are needed to save this desperate situation, and we fully support the call by the UN for an international conference to address the underlying needs of the region.

We give an assurance that our Churches will do all in their power to support efforts for peace and justice.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE CANTUAR,
KATHLEEN RICHARDSON,
As from Lambeth Palace, SE1,
October 29.

Children at risk

From Ms Amanda Grant

Sir, The plight of the baby boy tortured and abused by his father until death came as "a merciful release" (report, October 24) haunts me: surely we can find some way to protect helpless children from such cruelty.

When I left hospital with my newborn son last summer I was visited daily for ten days by my midwife, then weekly for four weeks by my health visitor. The baby was undressed and weighed each time. It was then up to me to take the baby to a clinic for regular weigh-ins. I found it convenient to go every month or so, so that his progress could be regularly plotted on the weight charts.

Could these checkups not be made compulsory for the first few years of a child's life? A reminder could be sent to the parent of a child that has not attended a clinic recently and, if necessary, the child could be visited at home. A lack of co-operation by the parents could be taken as an indication that all was not well.

Yours faithfully,
AMANDA GRANT,
1 Greenfield Cottage,
Bentley, Farnham, Surrey,
October 24.

Banning handguns

From Mr Martin Pawley

Sir, The ordeal of Lord and Lady McGowan (report, October 28) casts an interesting light on the impending legislation to ban handguns. For centuries a pistol was regarded as a weapon of defence and was unlicensed. Now we are in the process of creating a society in which it will be illegal to own one.

Terrorists, criminals and the police will be armed to the teeth, and only law-abiding citizens in their own homes will be defenceless.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN PAWLEY,
Church Wing, The Old Rectory,
Somerton, Bicester, Oxfordshire,
October 28.

'Savage' Hillaby

From Mr Bernard Kaurkas

Sir, John Hillaby, whose obituary you published today, was first and foremost a naturalist. He once received a letter from Harvard informing him that that university had adopted one of his early works as a textbook. A degree was enclosed, and Hillaby demonstrated his foresight by using it to buy life membership of the London Library and the Savage Club.

Hillaby was a true Savage, walking regularly from Hampstead to the club and eventually home again. He would, when asked, demonstrate his walking ability by leaning forward at the angle made famous by M. Hulot - "halves the effort" he would explain. He always spoke as he wrote, good English prose.

Yours truly,
BERNARD KAURKAS,
Savage Club, 1 Whitehall Place, SW1,
October 21.

Business letters, page 29

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5446

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Breaking the cycle of drug misuse

From Dr G. J. Cresswell

Sir, Simon Jenkins ("The opium of America", October 24) is quite right to draw attention to the irrationality of anti-drugs legislation, but he also stops short of the unthinkable.

Drug-peddling is enormously profitable because the addictive substances (opiates and, to a lesser extent, cocaine and amphetamines and their derivatives) have scarcity value driven by their illegality and because they are, by their very nature, self-marketing, once addiction can be established. These characteristics together provide the drive to addict the young.

The only way to interrupt this cycle is to drop the street price of addictive drugs to virtually nothing. This would at a stroke eliminate the profit potential and simultaneously the drive to addict the vulnerable. Drugs could be provided by the State, free of charge or for the equivalent of a prescription charge.

Provided that the user is willing to accept appropriate counselling, the drugs could be provided in whatever quantities he might require. I have no doubt that the cost of provision, counselling and administration would be covered by the savings consequent on the associated reduction in crime and that after a short bonanza drug use would drop to manageable levels.

Yours faithfully,
G. J. CRESSWELL,
Ann Cottage,
Kilmeston, Alresford, Hampshire,
October 25.

From Mr Derek Forrest

Sir, Random drug-testing in prisons is said to cost at least twice as much as a drug-reduction and rehabilitation programme (report, October 25).

We randomly test prisoners in Lancashire but not at weekends. I have

been told by prisoners that cannabis remains in the blood for 14 days, heroin only four, so if a prisoner goes on a heroin trip on Friday evening he would be at risk of discovery only on Monday.

Heroin use would thus tend to increase and cannabis use (which prison officials have told me that, in the absence of complete exclusion of drugs, they favour for its calming effect) to diminish.

The net effect, as I see it, is that prisons will discharge more and more heroin addicts who have only one way of supporting their £60-a-day habit: crime.

Yours faithfully,
DEREK FORREST,
Solicitor Direct,
Leyland House, Lancashire
Enterprises Business Park,
Centurion Way, Leyland, Lancashire.

From Dr Dorothy E. Speed

Sir, I suggest that money spent on costly drug tests would be better used in preventing drugs coming into prisons in the first place. It is irresponsible to use public money on random tests, while continuing to allow such easy access of drugs to prisoners. Better searches of visitors and treating open visits as an earned privilege, rather than a right, would go a long way to cut down the present easy transfer of drugs into prisons.

To cut off the supply of drugs to prisoners would not only make drug rehabilitation schemes more meaningful but would save money. Prisoners whose use of drugs is detected lose remission. Penalties range from two to four weeks at circa £460 a week.

Yours truly,
D. E. SPEED,
20 Winchester Street, SW1,
October 26.

Courts' use of custodial sentences

From Mr C. J. Livesley

Sir, To my mind Libby Purves's account of prisons "clogged with fine defaulters and shoplifters" ("Prisoners of stupidity", October 22) was misleading. Every effort is made by the criminal courts to employ appropriate non-custodial sentences: the fine rather than prison is by far the most commonly used punishment and is very successful.

However, experience clearly shows that prison is the only practical and effective method of enforcement against the minority who will not pay. As a sentence, prison is reserved for the serious and/or repeat offender. It is wholly exceptional for magistrates to send "shoplifters" to prison.

We must not allow the shortcomings of the prison regime to justify an enforced reduction in the necessary use of prison by the courts. Victims need respite and examples must be made. In the final analysis, only prison protects us from those who refuse to see and respond to reason.

It is quite wrong to urge, as your sub-heading did, that "custodial sentences must become a last resort". They have been for a long, long time.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER LIVESLEY
(Justices' Clerk),
South Tyneside Magistrate's Court,
Campbell Park Road,
Hebburn, Tyne and Wear.

Parliamentary reform

From Mr Graeme Woolaston

Sir, Peter Riddell's article on reform of the Commons (October 21) did not consider the impact of the proposed Scottish devolution proposals, which would have the effect of converting the Commons into a federal chamber for Scotland but the unitary parliament for England and Wales. It is difficult, to say the least, to see how such a bizarre hybrid could function satisfactorily for very long.

Many readers will agree with Peter Riddell that the Commons is too large, but spare a thought for us Scots who are liable to find ourselves with a Scottish parliament with an additional 142 politicians only too willing to legislate for five million people. A similar parliament for England would, pro rata, have 1,350 members for approximately 47.5 million.

Yours faithfully,
GRAEME WOOLASTON,
10 Uist Crescent, Stepps, Glasgow,
October 21.

Crossing the floor

From Mr George A. Lansdowne

Sir, Peter Thurman is berated by Mr John Martin (letter, October 21) for his "treachery" towards the party activists who helped him retain his seat. His party can hardly be expected to look kindly on his defection to the Liberal Democrats, but it is typical of party supporters who regard their creed as some kind of religion that they overlook the voters whom the MPs are supposed to represent.

Democracy is a delicate flower that needs all the help it can get. It is tempting to believe that the Conservative Party's treachery towards the electorate was a test of Mr Thurman's conscience.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE LANSDOWNE,
24 Turners Mill Road,
Hemel Hempstead, Herts.

From Mr Charles Scott

Sir, As a member of the South Tyneside duty solicitor scheme I regularly attend to and advise people who are arrested by a warrants officer and brought before the court for non-payment of fines. It has become increasingly obvious that a substantial number of single mothers are being arrested in connection with non-payment of television licence fines.

A typical case, of which I have had several over the last week, will involve a mother of three or four children who is arrested and brought before the court having been detained in the police cells. The amounts of arrears can very often be as little as £10.

Whilst the magistrates show great sympathy and compassion to these cases they are nevertheless disturbing to deal with.

Might I suggest that the Government deals with this problem by allowing women who are in receipt of income support to have free television licences and to rid the criminal courts of the onerous task of dealing with this humiliating and unnecessary fiasco.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES SCOTT,
Ward Hadaway (solicitors),
Town Hall Chambers,
7 Beach Road,
South Shields, Tyne and Wear,
October 22.

From Mr Richard A. Edwards

Sir, At the end of every Parliament each administration engages in an undignified scramble to place its Bills on the statute book. As events of recent days illustrate the Major administration is no exception.

Inevitably, important Bills are lost when Parliament expires, while others are not brought forward simply because there is no parliamentary time. Poor and inadequate legislation is the consequence.

In New Zealand, by contrast, the House of Representatives may resolve that any Bill or business before it be carried over into the next session, whether of the same Parliament or not (Constitution Act 1986, s20). Consequently Bills in New Zealand do not lapse on the dissolution or expiration of Parliament.

Has the time not come for the enactment of a similar provision here?

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD A. EDWARDS,
60 Queen's Road, Devizes, Wiltshire,
October 23.

Masonic loyalty

From Mr R. E. Floyd

Sir, It is suggested in your report (October 25) that membership of Freemasonry, being a body that demands loyalty of its members, must create a conflict of interest for police officers. It would be a poor organisation that did not demand some form of loyalty from its membership. However, in the case of Freemasonry the priorities are unambiguous. A Freemason's vows are not to take priority over his civil, moral or religious duties. Accordingly a police officer, like anybody holding public office, need never be compromised by Masonic loyalty.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD FLOYD,
Floyd Harris
(Chartered accountants),
Mitre House, 44/46 Fleet Street, EC4.

Clinical academic doctors spurned

From Professor Sir Keith Peters, FRCS, and Professor Frank Harris

Sir, We are deeply concerned by the decision, announced on October 11, of the Universities and Colleges Employers Association (UCEA) to abandon the pay link between NHS hospital doctors and hospital doctors employed by the universities with medical schools.

This occurs at a time when the future for clinical academic medicine (of whose achievements in the development of patient care, the creation of new specialities and the conduct of clinical research the UK can be justifiably proud) is already threatened.

In 1995 the House of Lords Select Committee on Medical Research recommended to government that an inquiry be set up to study the deteriorating circumstances of academic medicine. In the event the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals established an independent inquiry under the chairmanship of Sir Rex Richards after government's failure to acknowledge that there was indeed a significant problem in recruiting and retaining doctors in academic medicine.

The refusal of the UCEA to meet the Doctors' and Dentists' Review Body pay award to clinical academics breaches the principle of parity between the two groups of hospital doctors who work side by side through all grades in the NHS. In major teaching hospitals, the clinical academics may deliver more than 50 per cent of the key acute medical and surgical services to patients.

This now annual battle with the Department for Education and Employment to maintain the principle of pay parity between the NHS and the university doctors occurs in spite of DfEE awareness of the promise made by Sir Keith Joseph in 1986 and is deeply damaging.

The effect of the UCEA decision will be greatest on young academics who are the seed corn for the future of medicine: they will be under pressure to change to service posts that will at best provide only limited opportunities to conduct research. The teaching of medical students and the postgraduate education of doctors must also suffer.

In short, it will not be possible to retain or recruit the best young people to academic medicine. For the sake of saving a relatively small sum (the additional cash required to maintain parity is £4.8 million) the DfEE seems prepared to jeopardise the future of an enterprise whose excellence is vital to the NHS.

Yours sincerely,
KEITH PETERS
(Chairman),
FRANK HARRIS
(Executive Secretary),
Council of Deans of UK Medical Schools and Faculties,
PO Box 138, Maurice Shock Medical Sciences Building,
University Road, Leicester,
October 29.

Classic mix-up

From Mr Eric F. Warne

Sir, The item headed "Classic fudge" (Diary, October 23) refers to John Williams, composer of film soundtracks. As Mr Williams also composes other music (he has two symphonies and concertos for violin and for flute to his credit, among other works) I can quite see that he may well be caught in the charts "trap". However, as far as I am aware, he is not renowned as a guitarist.

It would appear that John Williams the composer has been inadvertently amalgamated with John Williams the eminent Australian guitarist. At a time when mergers are prevalent in so many areas of activity the world of music is indeed fortunate to have two leading musicians of the same name using their diverse respective talents for our benefit and delectation.

Yours faithfully,
ERIC WARNE,
The Drey, 71 Lakewood Road,
Chandler's Ford, Hampshire,
October 24.

A broad canvas

From Mr E. W. Lighton

Sir, The comic effects of cut-offs between volumes of encyclopaedias (letters, October 23, 25) is repeated in the page headings of reference works. For example, the *Yellow Pages* of Edmonton (Alberta) telephone district had an entry of "Marriage Counsellors - Marital Arts".

Yours faithfully,
E. W. LIGHTON,
11 Ryebank Avenue, Crewe, Cheshire,
October 25.

Walls of sound

From Mr Robert Vincent

Sir, In Amanda Loose's engaging piece "How to give your house saleability" (October 23) one learns that in this five-storey mid-Victorian house there is a "modern sense of balanced calm".

One wonders quite how this will be sustained now that the owners "have added speakers to every room".

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT VINCENT,
Dilly House,
Wildern, Andover, Hampshire.



COURT CIRCULAR

BOROMABIMAN MANSION

BANGKOK The Queen accompanied by Princess Sirindhorn, this morning visited the British Council, Bangkok, and opened the new building.

Her Majesty, with her Royal Highness, afterwards visited Chulalongkorn University and met students and staff.

The Prime Minister of Thailand (Mr Banham Silpa-Archa) later called upon the Queen.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh subsequently attended a luncheon given by the Prime Minister at the Bank of Thailand, Bang Khun Phum Palace.

Afterwards Her Majesty and His Royal Highness viewed a procession of the Royal Barges on the river.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh later viewed a display of partnership between Thai International Airlines and Rolls-Royce plc at Don Muang Airport.

This evening Her Majesty and His Royal Highness watched a Sound and Light performance at the ancient capital, Ayutthaya, with the King and Queen of Thailand, and were subsequently entertained to dinner by their Majesties at Bang Pa-In Palace.

The Duke of Edinburgh this morning opened the new offices of Standard Chartered Bank, Bangkok.

His Royal Highness later visited the Royal Thai Naval Academy.

The Duke of Edinburgh this afternoon received senior Thai businessmen at Boromabiman Mansion.

The Queen, on behalf of the Queen, held an investiture at Buckingham Palace this morning.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE October 29: The Princess Royal, Patron, Spinal Injuries Association, this morning opened the new Williams Grant Primary School, at Grove, Wantage, and was received by Her

Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of

Oxfordshire (Mr Hugo Brunner).

Her Royal Highness, President of the Patrons, Crime Concern, this afternoon launched the Hackney Safer Cities Grants Scheme "Making a Difference in Hackney" at Hackney Town Hall, Mare Street, London E8.

The Princess Royal, President, the Rural Housing Trust, this evening attended the John Ariotti Rioja Dinner at the Landmark Hotel, Marylebone Road, London NW1.

ST JAMES'S PALACE October 29: The Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief, Army Air Corps, this morning presented the Colonel-in-Chief's Trophy to the 1995 and 1996 winners.

His Royal Highness this afternoon departed from Royal Air Force Northolt for Brussels, Belgium.

On arrival, The Prince of Wales visited the ICI Research and Technology Unit, Eversberg.

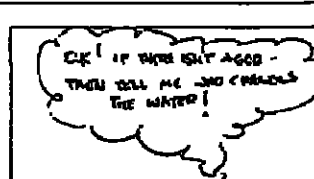
His Royal Highness this evening attended a Reception and Dinner given by the Agricultural Reform Group at the Euroville Hotel, Boulevard Charlemagne.

Commander Richard Aylard RN and Miss Sandy Henney are in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE October 29: The Duke of Gloucester this evening attended a reception at the London Goodenough Trust for Overseas Graduates, Harracks, near St. Pancras, London WC1.

ST JAMES'S PALACE October 29: The Duke of Kent this morning met with the Vice President of the Republic of Serbia, Mr Dragoljub Milutinovic and opened Lande Bridge Western Bosnia and Herzegovina.

His Royal Highness later visited 22 Engineer Regiment at Dhulevi near the May of Split at the Diocetian's Palace.



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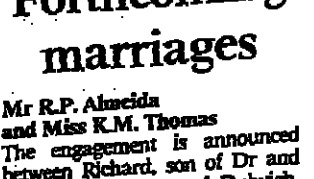
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OBITUARIES

MAJOR-GENERAL DAVID MILLER

Major-General David Miller CB, CBE, MC, Chief of Staff "Live Oak" at SHAPE, 1984-86, died of cancer on October 4 aged 65. He was born on August 17, 1931.

David Miller was a byword for bravery among the infantry soldiers he led as a junior officer in the 1950s and 1960s. In 1967 he won an MC in Aden for the service and tactical skill with which he led his company during a desperate situation which arose in the days leading up to British withdrawal. He later showed the same qualities as a battalion commander in Northern Ireland, and as Commander of the Ulster Defence Regiment. Finally, his precision of mind came strongly into play as a senior staff officer during the closing years of the Cold War.

Commissioned into the Border Regiment in 1951, David Miller sailed with the 1st Battalion to Egypt in HMS *Illustrious* during the emergency reinforcement of the Canal Zone after King Farouk had abrogated the Anglo-Egyptian Treaty. He cut his military teeth on patrol operations around Suez.

After this he served in intelligence in Berlin before being seconded to the Nigerian military forces after the country's independence in 1960. Subsequently passing through the Staff College, he went as GS20 (Training) to Singapore.

By 1967 he was back with his battalion as commander of C Company. He and his men were to write two footnotes to the history of the 1967 withdrawal from Aden. On June 20 C Company was "stand-by force" in Radfan Camp on the isthmus when Arab soldiers of the Federal Army mutinied in the nearby Champion Lines and besieged their British officers.

At the request of the Federal Government, Miller was ordered to secure the officers' safety. He set off with a small party in an armoured vehicle to try to contact them and make a plan for their relief. But the situation suddenly worsened and his company



was ordered forward in unarmoured trucks. One was hit by automatic fire, which killed one and wounded eight of his men. Undeterred, he dismounted and led the assault on the barracks. The sudden appearance of British troops within the camp quickly restored order and enabled him to secure the armoury and rescue the officers without further bloodshed.

Miller was awarded an MC for his handling of the situation. He wrote the second footnote in November 1967 when his C Company covered the final withdrawal from Aden, and were the last troops to leave. They were flown off in Wessex helicopters onto the

aircraft carrier *Albion*, before being shipped to rejoin their battalion at Bahrain. The C-in-C, Admiral Sir Michael Le Fanu, sent Miller a note written at sea: "It has been very agreeable to have your Charlie Company round my location. They have struck me as a very cheerful, on the ball and smart outfit..."

Attending the Joint Services Staff College at Latham in 1970 gave him a short break from active operations before being posted to command his battalion in Belfast in February 1971. The Province was faced with the IRA's concerted offensive against the Army, the troubles caused by the introduction of internment without trial, the start of the

terrorist use of car bombs, the reactions to "Bloody Sunday" and "Bloody Friday" and the establishment of "no-go" areas in Belfast and Londonderry. He himself was lucky to survive when an IRA bomb exploded under his Land Rover.

During his tour he led his battalion, mounted in armoured Saracens and supported by tank dozers, during Operation Motorman to break open the no-go areas. His particular target was the Catholic Creggan housing estate in Londonderry. The operation proved too large to be kept secret, and so his 600 Cumbrian soldiers were barely opposed. The hard men of the IRA had withdrawn across the Foyle before the battalion swept

through the barricades cleared by the tank dozers. He was appointed OBE in June 1973.

He returned to England as a senior member of the directing staff at Lancaster, by then renamed the National Defence College. There, among other things, he experienced the IRA bomb attack on the college. Then the Cold War began to bulk large in his career. He was posted as Colonel General Staff in the Ministry of Defence branch responsible for monitoring Warsaw Pact activities, and for Nato and BAOR counter-measures.

In March 1978 he returned to Belfast as Commander of the Ulster Defence Regiment which was being greatly expanded and given wider responsibilities throughout the Province. The situation was less tense than in 1972, but there were still atrocities, such as the killing of 18 soldiers at Warrenpoint and the murder of Earl Mountbatten in August 1979. His tenure in command will be remembered for his efforts to encourage the female members of the regiment, the "Greenfinches", and to give them wider operational responsibilities. It was largely due to Miller's efforts that they became an integral part of the new Royal Irish Regiment.

Advanced to CBE for his services with the UDR, the Cold War phase of his career started in earnest in 1980 when he was appointed Brigadier General Staff in HQ BAOR. Four years later he was given the semi-diplomatic post of Chief of Staff and Head of the UK Delegation to "Live Oak", the four-cornered British, American, French and German Berlin contingency planning staff in the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe. "Live Oak" was responsible for ensuring the Allies' continued freedom of access to Berlin.

Retiring from the Army in 1986, he was appointed CB and became Colonel of the Border Regiment. Settling in North Devon, he became a magistrate and a member of the board of visitors at the nearby prison.

In 1988 he met Mary Lamley Fisher. They had two sons, who, with his wife, survive him.

SIR PATRICK BROWNE

Sir Patrick Browne, PC, OBE, former Lord Justice of Appeal and High Court Judge, died on October 1 aged 89. He was born on May 28, 1907.

PATRICK BROWNE was a Lord Justice of Appeal from 1974 until his retirement in 1980, crowning a most distinguished career both at the Bar and on the Bench. His appointment to the Court of Appeal followed nine years as a judge of the High Court of Justice, Queen's Bench Division. His work as a High Court judge involved frequent (and, in those days, lengthy) spells sitting on circuit, mainly trying criminal cases. On his retirement he recalled those days with pleasure, but it was no secret that he felt happier trying civil cases.

One outstanding example of his judgments in the civil field in 1966 was in the leading case of *Anisimic v Foreign Compensation Commission*, which concerned compensation for English owners of foreign property in Egypt following the Suez episode. The case raised a critical point as to the powers of the court to investigate the scope of the Commission's jurisdiction, and his hitherto unreported judgment in the plaintiff's favour was, probably uniquely, annexed to the official Law Report of the case in the House of Lords, where it was restored after it had been reversed in the Court of Appeal.

Patrick Reginald Evelyn Browne was the elder son of Professor Edward Browne, a distinguished Oriental scholar and Professor of Arabic at

Cambridge. He was educated at Eton and Pembroke College, Cambridge, of which he was elected an Honorary Fellow in 1975. He served in the Royal Horse Artillery during the Second World War, becoming a GS01 in the War Office with the rank of lieutenant-colonel, and being appointed OBE (mil.) in 1945.

He had been called to the Bar by the Inner Temple in



1931, and took silk in 1960. He built up a large and successful practice, specialising mainly in rating, planning and parliamentary work, which became an important and rapidly expanding area of practice in the years following the war.

Patrick Browne was a man of tremendous personal integrity, with a charmingly modest and self-effacing manner. As a judge he was conscientious almost to a fault, but extremely fair and courteous to all who appeared before him, whether as counsel or as witnesses. His judgments frequently

demonstrated his dedication and his learning, for example in the case of *Bank Russo-Iran v Gordon Woodruffe & Co*, when, as the trial judge, he resolved (no doubt with a feeling of filial piety) a number of intricate issues of Persian law. At the very end of his judgment of more than 200 pages, all of which up to then had gone in the bank's favour, he decided the last of the issues against it, with the result that it lost. Such was his anxiety, however, that he went out of his way to encourage the bank's leading counsel to appeal: but, to his disappointment, the Russians felt a little disillusioned with the English legal process, and declined to carry the case any further.

This great sense of modesty never deserted him. Shortly before his retirement, he sat in the Court of Appeal in an important and complex patent case concerning penicillin, where he was in the unfortunate position of holding the ring when his two Chancery colleagues disagreed in lengthy judgments. His pithy judgment, occupying but one page, began characteristically with the words: "I find myself, whose knowledge and experience in this field of law is minimal, in the unhappy position of having the deciding voice between the experts."

He loved the Inner Temple, where he became a Benchman in 1962, and was in turn greatly loved by his fellow Benchmen and other colleagues in the Inn.

His first wife died in 1968. His second wife, Lena, together with his two daughters by his first marriage, survive him.

JOE SIME

Joe Sime, flat race jockey, died on October 22 aged 73. He was born on July 27, 1923.

JOE SIME was one of the most successful northern jockeys during the 20 years after the Second World War. As a man able to ride at a boy's weight, he was in widespread demand for the important handicaps, especially by gambling stables. Exceptionally strong for his weight, he was a subtle tactician and an astute judge of pace. Perhaps the best race he ever rode was in the Yorkshire Cup in 1957, when he made all the running on the rank outsider *Souverlone* and beat the classic colt *Hornbeam* at the end of two miles.

For many years Sime enjoyed a successful association with Sam Hall, the rotund and jovial trainer from Middleham. For him he rode, most notably, *Morcambe*, one of the outstanding staying handicappers of his era, and won the Ebor Handicap at York in 1957 and the Cesarewitch at Newmarket the next year.

Joseph Francis Sime was born in Liverpool. He was the son of a painter at the local docks and as a young boy his ambition was to be a footballer, but, too small in stature to achieve this, he went instead, at the age of 14, to Newmarket to be apprenticed to Dawson

Waugh at the Somerville Lodge stables. His talent soon emerged when he won on *Fire*, his first mount in public, at Newmarket in 1941.

With the retirement of Waugh at the end of 1942, Sime completed his apprenticeship with Waugh's nephew, Jack, at the Heath House stables, also at Newmarket. He obtained his first important success on *Mad Carew* in a substitute Manchester November Handicap at Ponterfract in 1943.

Champion apprentice in 1943, 1944 and 1946 he went on to win the 1947 Ebor Handicap on *Proence* trained by Captain Charles Elsey. Twelve months later he won the race again on *Donino*.

In 1948 he gained his first success at Royal Ascot, when riding *Lake Placid* in the King George V Handicap. Other successes at the Royal meeting included the three-year-old *Heliocope*, in the 1949 Hardwicke Stakes and the *Wokingham Stakes* on *Light Harvest* in 1956.

Sime obtained one of his most important successes on the good class sprinter, *Chris*, in the King's Stand Stakes at Royal Ascot in 1959. *Chris* was trained by the former jockey, Willie Nevett. Sime's predecessor as *Cock o' the North* (the leading northern jockey), Sime also won the Queen

Anne Stakes at Royal Ascot on *Lucky Guy* in 1959.

In 1962 Sime made another impact on Royal Ascot by winning the Royal Hunt Cup on *Smartie* and the Queen's Vase on *Pavot*, trained by Paddy Prendergast in Ireland. Later he enjoyed further significant success on Irish horses, winning his fourth Ebor Handicap on *Partholon* in 1963 and another Queen's Vase on *Beddard*, saddled by Stuart Morris, in 1965.

A second success in the Cesarewitch materialised when Sime rode *Urrillo* for Captain Ryan Price's powerful Findon stable in 1963. Two years later he won the Cesarewitch for a third time on *Mintmaster*.

Sime enjoyed his best season when riding 108 winners, and finishing fourth in Lester Piggott in the jockeys' list in 1960. He retired in 1968. One of the few jockeys who smoked a pipe, Sime was a modest and friendly man, who was popular among the racing community, as well as in Doncaster where he made his home. After retirement from racing he worked as a journalist for *The People* and ran a newsagents near the racecourse.

He is survived by his wife Joan, whom he married in 1946, and by their two sons and daughter.



Joe Sime, right, winning the Lincoln on Hill Royal in 1962

PETER ALDERSLEY

Peter Aldersley, actor and disc jockey, died on October 10 aged 72. He was born on May 4, 1924.

PETER ALDERSLEY was an eccentric but genial figure who might almost have stepped out of the pages of a P. G. Wodehouse novel. Although as an actor he never rose to fame, he was known throughout the world of British theatre as the secretary of both the Green Room and Saville clubs. His enormous enthusiasm shat-

tered preconceptions of musty clubland as he welcomed members at the door, buying them drinks and entertaining them with conversation through the evening.

Although there were no theatrical connections in Peter Aldersley's family, it was theatre and particularly music hall that became his first love. As a boy growing up in Hampstead he would often spend what little pocket money he had going to the West End to see such luminar-

ies of the day as Gracie Fields, Max Miller, Douglas Byng and Noël Coward.

In the 1930s he tried his chances as a repertory actor, joining Tod Slaughter, the master of grand guignol, in touring productions of *Sweeney Todd* and *Maria Marten*, or *The Murder in the Red Barn*, staged in small provincial theatres and in local church halls.

In the 1940s and 1950s Aldersley acted in repertory, playing in such diverse places

as Gravesend and Lincoln. For a while he was an actor and director at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre and at the Wolverhampton Grand.

But in the 1960s he suddenly changed his career, becoming a disc jockey on Radio Luxembourg. His relaxed style on air was to be the forerunner of that later adopted by BBC Radio 2 in the 1970s and 1980s. His chirpy jovial show, including music-hall songs and variety sketches, mingled with singles from the current hit parades, was to prove one of the station's most popular attractions and Aldersley received an ample mail bag each week, mainly from admiring housewives.

A chance programme that he devised in the 1960s about Elvis Presley brought yet another turn in his career, when he was invited by Presley to visit him at his home in Graceland in America. The two men got on well and Presley cast him in a small part in the film *Elvis*. That's *The Way It Is* in 1970.

But it was in the world of theatre clubland that Aldersley was in his element. He joined the Green Room in 1952, later became the honorary secretary and then in 1991 was elected chairman. He also edited the club's magazine.

In 1976 he became the secretary of the Saville Club, where his old-style manners and respect for the members made him extremely popular. He retired through ill-health in 1991.

Peter Aldersley was unmarried.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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floor

It's a free country, but not if you want to tell the truth

Lot of silliness without a circus

All praise to the Commons Committee on Standards and Privileges. It has decided to let cameras into its cash-for-questions inquiry. Unique among parliamentary committees, it enjoys the option of excluding cameras from public hearings. Wisely it will not exercise it. That's one small step on the road to open government.

Why would such a committee consider shutting its doors to television? To avoid "a media circus", of course. That snappy phrase is often trotted out to justify excluding cameras from hearings like the Scott inquiry where a wider public would like to look in. A sneering reference to the O.J. Simpson trial usually follows, as if that settles the question. What a laugh. Britain is not California. It does not have palm trees, a violent and armed police force, football players who become actors, publicity seekers who tolerate pre-trial publicity, allowing lawyers to give daily press conferences. Nor, unlike the United States, does it have a Freedom of Information Act. Suggestions that we should have such an Act are dismissed with warnings of the danger of emulating the legalistic Americans.

Threats of a media circus were widely used in the 1980s to fend off moves to televise Parliament. It would ruin the quality of debate, members would be encouraged to play to the camera. The media circus did not take place. Since 1986, the full proceedings of both Houses have been televised.

You can watch every golden minute on The Parliamentary Channel, a cable-exclusive channel, which offers the Commons live, delayed broadcasts of the Lords' proceedings the following morning and selections from the parliamentary committees at the weekend. Other broadcasting organisations take bits as suits their needs, notably from Prime Minister's Questions.

The only behaviour modification that television has wrought on MPs has been to get women members into day-glo jackets. If these years have also witnessed a loss of respect for Parliament, not even MPs would blame television as the cause. The cameras show empty chambers because everybody knows that most speeches don't matter.

Yet parliamentary television is duller than it needs to be. The fault lies with the rules enforced to stave off the media circus. No close-ups (the basic technique of film and screen) are allowed. "Reaction" shots are also forbidden. How ironic that the debating chamber which boasts that it is the best in the world and prides itself on the well-honed gibe, will not allow us to see the expression

on the victim's face. All we see is the triumphant attacker. Only wide-angle shots of the chamber are allowed. Programme editors are not even permitted to put a circle over the part of the screen which shows, say, a scuffle or a whip forcing a reluctant member through the lobby. Reporters and editors are thereby prevented from doing their job: directing the public to what is relevant.

Equally ludicrous is the rule forbidding the use of any of the footage for satiric purposes. Members seem to need assurance that no shots will turn up on the cover of *Private Eye* or on *A Week in Politics*. But surely they are at greater risk of looking foolish on the campaign trail, with everything from eggs to babies being thrust at them unwares, than in the Palace of Westminster.



BRENDA MADDOX

Politicians have no business having such thin skins. The time has come for them to repay the responsible coverage television has given Parliament over the past decade by loosening the rules — especially the silliest of them all.

That is the absolute requirement that, if any really untoward event should occur in the chamber — one member knocking another out cold, for example — the cameras must go straight to the face of the Speaker and stay there. Eyes away from the news? That's not public service. It's censorship.

In Liverpool at the weekend to chair a session at the 50th anniversary conference of the Guild of Editors. I found it full of passionate defenders of the press, not only from the nationals but smaller ones with evocative names like the *Bury Free Press* and the *Shropshire Star*.

It was a poor audience before which to call for a new privacy law to restrain the excesses of newspapers, but *The Independent's* columnist Polly Toynbee and libel lawyer Peter Carter-Ruck made such an appeal. They would have had a less hostile reception had they made the case for abortion before a group of Roman Catholic bishops.

If the rest of Europe can have a privacy law, asked Ms Toynbee, why can't we? David Newell, a lawyer and the deputy director of the Newspaper Society, explained: "A privacy law would be introduced into a legal system which lacks protection of freedom of expression. No European country lacks such protection." Amen. A country which neither has a Freedom of Information Act nor a guaranteed right of free speech should be lifting, not piling on, restrictions.

Winner will exercise his mind

AT last, something to distract Michael Winner from the business of persecuting restaurateurs. The film director and Fleet Street irritant is to join the red braces brigade. He has been signed up by Real Creatives Worldwide to direct television commercials.

"He'd be good at anything action-packed... you know, like taking Milk Tray into the 21st century or car commercials," Malcolm Rasala, of Real Creatives, says. Mr Winner's own recollections of his previous advertising work are rather more mundane: "I did one in the Fifties for Elizabethan tape recorders. But it's quite correct that I have been signed up to work for this company. Having done fast-paced pictures before, it was thought there might be a good cross-over there. I'm happy to do it. It keeps your hand in and exercises the mind."

THE more upmarket estate agents in Edinburgh apparently perked up when they heard that the prosperous Andrew Neil had accepted the job of Editor-in-Chief of *European Press Holdings*, which owns *The Scotsman*, *The European* and two other Scottish newspapers.

Would they be able to interest the jet-setting Mr Neil in a charming pied-à-terre in the grand old city? Unfortunately the Paisley superstar has no plans to lay down property roots in Edinburgh. "I plan to be in Edinburgh two to three days a week, probably flying up on a Sunday night and returning to London on Wednesday," he says. "I shall be staying at the Balmoral hotel."

Thin ice

PAUL Boateng, MP and host of Channel 4's astute public debate programme, *Nothing But the Truth*, is stepping into deeply litigious waters to ask his audience to consider the matter of the Prince's former housekeeper, Wendy Berry.

Mrs Berry, you will remember, blotted her copybook when she told all about the breakdown of his marriage in a carefully recorded book, *Housekeeper's Diary*. A royal legal team gained an injunction which prevented the contents of the book being sold, published or broadcast in the UK. They were unable, however, to stop 90,000 copies being flogged in America.



Boateng: telling the truth

The programme — which is being recorded on Saturday and is likely to be screened on Sunday — will debate whether it was right that a book of such huge public interest should have been banned in Britain. Mr Boateng, however, should be aware that the last organisation to publicise the contents of that book was the late *Today* newspaper which felt the full force of a

Palace writ within an hour of hitting the streets.

THOSE hardworking chaps at *World in Action* have had enough of seeing their rivals at *Panorama* stealing the limelight. Stung by the plaudits the BBC *Panorama* team received for their world exclusive interview with Diana, Princess of Wales, and the moving story of Child B's fight against leukaemia, they have decided to hit back.

Stand by for an innovative new advertising campaign dreamt up by the publicity men at Granada, in Manchester, to accompany a series of hard-hitting *World in Action* documentaries. "We want to let people know we are still here and it's not just *Panorama* making good programmes," a source says.



Tall tale: Tiffany Raymond

Curdling tales

EASTENDERS' scriptwriters are determined not to be outdone by the acres of publicity which followed *Brookside's* recent incest storyline.

The *EastEnders* crew are planning an equally racy plot which could see the BBC out-tattoo Channel 4 and keep the Broadcasting Standards Council busy for weeks. It goes like this: Tiffany Raymond, who is pregnant

with Grant Mitchell's baby, confides to Lorraine Wicks that she's not sure Grant is the father after all. Lorraine tells all, Grant throws Tiffany out and she is forced to seek shelter with her gay brother Simon. Still following? Well, the trouble is that Simon's live-in lover is Tony Hills who is not only Tiffany's live-in lover but also the real father of the baby. Hence an instant ménage à trois.

There is apparently no truth in the rumour that *Coronation Street* is planning to introduce Mavis and Derek Wilton to wife-swapping.

Why consumers are switching off

CONSUMERS are going out of their way to avoid advertisements, according to a new study by Lowe Howard Spink. Advertising isn't working.

As much as £465 million spent on television advertising alone in 1995 was wasted because of a phenomenon which has been labelled "advertising avoidance" by John Lowery, head of planning at the agency.

Close analysis of the official BARB TV viewing data, as well as extra questions added to the TGI consumer survey, have revealed that 44 per cent of the nation are zapping TV commercials, while 54 per cent of the population could be "avoiding" ads on posters and 56 per cent could be snubbing magazine advertising, he says.

The reason for the phenomenon, according to Mr Lowery, is the decline over the past five years of likeable advertising — likeable being an important factor in the effectiveness of an ad — and the detrimental effect that bad

ADVERTISING

advertising has on other, possibly good, work.

THE 1996 Ariel Awards, the annual event in celebration of excellence in radio advertising, took place last night at BAFTA in London.

While lacking the razzamatazz of other advertising award ceremonies, the occasion was nevertheless well attended by 200 agency creatives, marking how increasingly important creativity is to radio commercials.

Awards were heaped upon the Harry Enfield ads for *Dine Bar*, which cleverly spoof the worst things about radio commercials — from ghastly jingles to endless "small print" disclaimers and inanely repeated phone numbers.

The award for the best campaign went deservedly to Saatchi and

Saatchi for its strong "Army soldier: be the best" COI/Mod work.

STUART PEARCE, the England and Nottingham Forest defender, seems to be the advertising flavour of the month.

Having made his commercial debut in an ad for Raleigh bikes, he is now to star in the latest Ford Escort commercial. It plays on his infamous spot-kick miss in the 1990 World Cup semi-final against West Germany. Responding to the "what do you do in your?" Escort challenge, the ad ends with the line "Stuart Pearce misses a penalty in his" as it shows him getting a parking ticket from a traffic warden.

Pizza Hut is also exploiting his goal-scoring history in a commercial starting on November 1. It also stars two other semi-final penalty misses, Gareth Southgate and Chris Waddle.

BELINDA ARCHER



Just the ticket: Stuart Pearce

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As part of our expansion programme we are looking to recruit the following positions:

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- who will have primary responsibility for the marketing activities of the Company. The successful applicant will be highly committed to driving market strategy forward and further developing our business, both in the UK and internationally. The ability to quickly assess our markets will be a prime requirement, and ideally the person appointed will have experience of working within the catering and/or food related trade.
- Acting as the creative mind of the Company; an eye for colour and design is required, together with an excellent flair for creativity regarding ideas for promotion and product development.
- The Marketing Controller will report directly to our Sales and Marketing Director, and will play a major part in our future growth. The successful candidate will therefore possess excellent interpersonal and influencing skills, providing further professionalism, energy, and enthusiasm to our small high quality team.

Sales Manager - Industrial Products Division

- Co-ordinating and supporting the polyester sales division, the successful candidate will develop sales of our polyester products in the industrial sector and provide marketing input to both UK and export markets. Providing effective technical support to our customers will also form a significant part of this important role.
- The role requires an energetic self starter and allows both the responsibility and opportunity to develop the position to its maximum potential. Other qualities required include drive and tenacity together with the ability to participate fully in the strategic development of the product group. Additionally, the successful candidate will be expected to liaise at all levels and be able to demonstrate a proven record of achievement to-date in a sales environment.

These are key opportunities to hold influential roles in a market leading organisation which has an international reputation for product excellence. Both positions offer a competitive salary, company car and other benefits.

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A tribute to the old campaigner

The Heinz '57-varieties' advertising slogan is 100 years old today and going strong. Alex Benady examines the secret of its appeal

ADVERTISING is a business notorious for its short-term perspective and obsessive pursuit of novelty. Ask an ad man for his definition of a "long time" and he will probably reply "60 seconds" on the grounds that it is twice the length of the average television commercial.

Few advertising ideas last longer than a couple of years. Exceptional campaigns may endure for a decade. Only a handful of the most powerful and relevant slogans have ever survived more than a few decades.

But today the granddaddy of all advertising slogans, Heinz's "57 varieties", celebrates its 100th anniversary. As the corporate call sign of the \$9 billion-a-year Heinz company, it appears on advertising and packaging in 200 different countries and ranks alongside Coca-Cola as one of the best-known slogans in the world.

It dates from October 30, 1896, when Henry John Heinz, owner of a fast-expanding pickled foods business, was on a train in New York and noticed an advertisement proclaiming "21 styles of shoes".

Although Heinz was already making more than 60 different lines, his mind kept turning to the number 57 and the phrase "57 varieties". He recorded in his diary: "I jumped off the train and began the work of laying out my advertising plans. Within a week it was appearing on billboards, signs and anywhere else I could find a place to stick it."

His short-order working methods contrast with the modern drawn-out creative

agony. This seemingly anodyne phrase rapidly became the best-known commercial message in the world. In the UK it has not appeared in advertisements since the Sixties when a television campaign was accompanied by the jingle "Heinz 57, it's Heinz 57, Heinz has everything you need. Ready when you are, yes indeed, it's Heinz 57."

It was subsequently eclipsed

by the slogan "57 varieties" in the UK. In the UK it has not appeared in advertisements since the Sixties when a television campaign was accompanied by the jingle "Heinz 57, it's Heinz 57, Heinz has everything you need. Ready when you are, yes indeed, it's Heinz 57."

The question is: why do some properties, especially when they are as apparently insignificant as "57 varieties", have such resonance and staying power?

Merry Clayton is a planning director of J Walter Thompson, the agency in London with more long-running advertising campaigns than any other. "The secret of longevity is to have an idea with a strong theme that can be modified to accommodate new trends," she said.

She illustrates her argument with the example of the 50-year-old Esso tiger. "It started life as a symbol of power, then in the Eighties became a symbol of green environmentalism, and now it has become a vigilante follower of prices."

Andy Bryant, account director of Heinz advertising agency Bates Dorland, says the durability of "57 varieties" lies in its ability to be continually

reinterpreted and updated to suit the times. "In 1896, 57 was a large number and '57 varieties' was an impressive display of manufacturing versatility. During the Great Depression it became a symbol of plenty. During the war it became a symbol of manufacturing power in defiance of German air raids," he said.

And it fits in perfectly with Heinz's communication strategy. Two years ago the com-



The "57" slogan is still a catchy number worldwide. In the Thirties poster above it had become synonymous in the UK with fitness and plenty

pany caused controversy with the advertising community by ceasing to advertise individual products and instead put its budget into a single campaign for the Heinz name. "Advertising all the Heinz varieties had become prohibitively expensive. But we could only adopt this 'umbrella branding' approach because, unlike many other manufacturers' names, Heinz means something to the consumer. And one of its strongest conno-

tations is '57 varieties'," Bryant said. A 100-year-old advertising slogan may sound like a contradiction in terms but according to Gary Duckworth, chairman of Duckworth Finn Grubb Waters, such properties are the ultimate goal of advertising and marketing.

"In an ideal world nearly all campaigns would be long-running because you get a cumulative investment which far exceeds the value of each year's spend," he said. "Long-running ideas build potency and layers of meaning which are hard to compete with."

In other words, they give a brand financial and emotional protection which rivals find hard to match. Heinz proves this. Despite almost suicidal competition from retailers and other manufacturers in recent years, with tins of baked beans sold for a few pence in some

cases, sales of Heinz beans have increased. We all know the really long-running advertising campaigns, 99 per cent of the population can complete the 75-year-old line. "Have a break, have a...". They are deeply embedded in our minds. But if they are so powerful and so valuable, it is puzzling that there are not more of them. After all, said Clayton, "It becomes apparent within a couple of months after a campaign breaks whether it has lasting qualities or not."

As the celebrities pouted, the cameras rolled and the curtain went up for this year's National Television Awards, few of the 3,000 guests at the Royal Albert Hall would have noticed Kim Turberville.

She spent most of the gala evening backstage, her party dress hitched above her knees, running from room to room ensuring all was going to a schedule which was entirely hers.

It was while she was watching the BAFTA awards several years ago that it struck her that the programmes most rewarded were rarely the ones most enjoyed by the masses.

Now the woman, who nine years ago was typing letters as a secretary for Central TV, is the sole owner of the rights to the awards night which this month attracted more than 12 million viewers, managed to persuade the Duchess of York to pop in as the surprise guest and has already got the BBC bidding to broadcast it in 1998.

The indisputable success of the National Television Awards must be perplexing for other, more traditional ceremonies, such as BAFTA, which while honouring "worthy" programmes are often accused by the kindest of critics of making dull television.

Turberville's theory is sim-

Kim Turberville wanted an awards show for the most popular programmes on television. Interview by Carol Midgley

ple. Bring together all the celebrities from all the most popular programmes for an evening of glitz and you have a guaranteed massive audience.

Critics could argue that does not necessarily create interesting or good quality television but Turberville ensured that what the show may have lacked in weight, it made up for in glamour. "I hadn't seen anything which excited viewers in terms of glamour for a long time," said Turberville. "We made sure all the celebrities turned up in limousines and that a lot of genuine fans were there. It created a magical atmosphere."

Uniquely, the winners for Turberville's awards are decided by the viewing public. This year 250,000 people cast a vote, one hundred times more than the number of people required for an official opinion poll. "No TV award

show ever reflected popular taste — until now," boomed *The Sun*, which, as a major sponsor, did have a vested interest. During the awards' two-year lifespan (1995 and 1996) the programmes have achieved viewing figures of more than 12 million for each showing.

This year the show's audience share was 48 per cent and, to Turberville's delight, the audience grew every 15 minutes. Next year, although they will be again shown on the ITV network, she will ask the BBC to trail the awards on a public information basis.

"It had occurred to me for a while that the programmes which people watched most, programmes like *Animal Hospital* and *The Bill*, were never rewarded," she said. "I am a great fan of *Heartbeat* for instance, and I wanted to



Kim Turberville with a National Television Award

focus on the programmes I watched the most." Turberville, who runs her own television company, Indigo, joined up with Gramplan and with its director of programmes George Mitchell,

offered the idea to ITV network and was granted the airtime. The first show was a resounding success not least because of the troubled Michael Barrymore who, having

picked up three awards, went on to steal the show. This year it was the Duchess of York, who, on presenting the award for best drama to *The Bill* remarked that she should be receiving it not giving it. Again, maximum tabloid coverage was guaranteed.

The Duchess was very nervous and said: "Do you think they are going to boo me?" In fact, there was an enormous cheer.

Having grown up in Chepstow, Turberville attended Nottingham University before deciding to sneak in to television through the back door as a secretary, but with her eye on the main chance. "I wanted to get into production and I thought it was the fastest way in. I never thought for a moment it would pigeon-hole me although I can see now how that might happen," she said.

"It was great. People think you are invisible when you are a secretary and said anything they liked in front of me. I got to know all the secrets. I don't think anybody realised I was so ambitious."

She went on to become an assistant producer and a producer working on the daytime

show *Gas Street*. She then acquired Indigo (a play on the word 'independent' and her favourite colour). Although still single at 37 she protests she is not "a sad, lonely, workaholic type".

It is hard sometimes but I make sure I have a very good private life, she says. "I always like to work long days then have long weekends."

The London-based company, which employs just six staff, specialises in one-off documentaries. This Christmas her latest offering, an

intimate documentary about the pop singer Phil Collins, will be screened on television. But it is the National Television Awards which remains her most important achievement, a result, she believes of simply identifying popular tastes and packaging the programme in a popular, feelgood way. "Sometimes the industry can get too wrapped up in itself," she said. "While it is talking about the latest movements at the ITC, it can lose sight of the whole point of television — the viewer at home. I am really lucky because I love these programmes myself. It was just a matter of remembering who the viewer is and what they want and delivering it."

Saturday editions top weekend takings

When I spoke to Andrew Neil at his packed book launch party in Daphne's restaurant on Monday night, he was as reticent as the parrot on his shoulder (yes, he had a parrot on his shoulder) about his new job.

But his decision to become Editor-in-Chief of *The Scotsman*, Scotland's Sunday and *The European* can be seen as an astute move by the owners, David and Freddie Barclay.

And I suspect it is good news for the British media, too. For the Barclays are not grey financiers after a peerage and a quick profit. They are genuine newspaper enthusiasts who devour every newspaper every day, who enjoy politics and the company of journalists.

With Neil joining the shrewd Bert Hardy, the former managing director of Associated Newspapers, at the helm of the Barclays media empire stand by for fireworks and acquisitions. The brothers have no new targets in sight, I am told, but with Neil on board they may be keener to expand.

Hardy said: "It's taken me

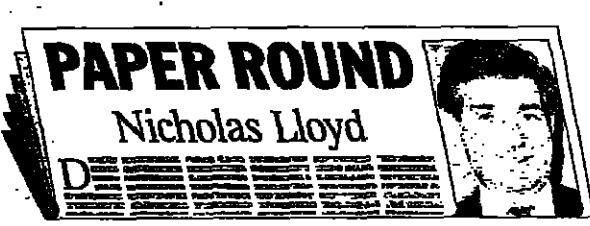
six months to get Andrew. He's high profile and he's Scottish — we wouldn't dare bring in anyone up here in Edinburgh who wasn't! He will bring us the hands-on editorial expertise necessary to develop our titles."

"We have to decide what direction *The European* should take — and we want to change our Sunday broadsheet review section to a magazine and also improve *The Scotsman's* Saturday magazine."

Returning to executive centre stage, the former king of the big Sunday newspaper package will note that Saturday has taken over as the biggest selling day.

Several Saturday issues now outsell their Sunday stablemates. *The Daily Mail* on Saturday sells 2.7 million to *The Mail on Sunday's* 2.1 million; the *Daily Mirror* sells 2.8 million to the *Sunday Mirror's* 2.45 million; *The Sun* has caught up with the *News of the World* at 4.5 million and the *daily Express*, with 1.4 million, is 200,000 ahead of its sagging Sunday sister.

Part of this shift may be the result of good old British



thrill. Since 1988, pagination of the dailies has doubled and magazines and supplements have been added to burgeoning Saturday editions. Why then, should a busy reader rush out and buy several Sunday newspapers, too?

There is no doubt that the removal of restrictions on Sunday trading and licensing hours has changed consumer behaviour radically.

I can remember in the Fifties and Sixties when all there was to do on a Sunday was read the newspapers, a time when a three-newspaper household was normal and the *News of the World* was hidden from the children (a move that ensured it became a sex education manual for every teenager).

Now we can work, rest and play on the Sabbath. Indeed, as one editor I spoke to suggested, Saturday may

have become the day we recover from work, a day for lazing and loafing, a day to read fat newspapers. And the deregulation of television listings has a major impact on sales, permitting Saturday papers to give readers week-long guides.

Stuart Higgins, Editor of *The Sun*, claims that his new 48-page television magazine, launched earlier this month, has increased sales by 150,000 copies and *The Sun* is now frequently outselling the *News of the World*.

At the *Daily Mirror*, Editor Piers Morgan emphasises the tremendous value for money Saturday newspapers offer. "We give a 28-page TV guide, 16 pages of sport and the main 36-page newspaper for 30p. The Sunday newspapers are more expensive but don't

offer many extra ingredients." (The Times provides more than 200 pages on Saturdays for 50p.)

Nowhere is the battle fiercer than between the middle-market readers, the *Daily Mail* and the *daily Express*. The *Mail* outsells the *Express* on Saturdays by a whopping 1.3 million copies. By being the first tabloid to have a high-quality colour magazine and a new £50,000 scratch-card launched each Saturday, the *Mail* has surged ahead.

Now executives at the *Daily Mail* have opened a bloody new front in the newspapers' shops. Three thousand retailers have received a gift box from the *Mail* labelled "Express Relief". Inside the promotional blurb, circulation director Mike Newman spotlights the cost-saving measures the *Express* has undertaken recently. He claims that the *Sunday Express* has ceased to exist as the editorial staffs of the daily and Sunday have been combined to produce a seven-day newspaper. And he asks the retailer to send out eight days' free copies of the *Mail* to every home-delivered *Express* reader and in return prom-

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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 30 1996



Ian Byatt, Director-General of Water Services, yesterday said that companies will have to explain how their dividends have been established

Ofwat demands price curb as dividends soar

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

WATER companies yesterday faced a fierce attack from the industry regulator and were warned to curb prices next year after a series of large shareholder payouts and lower-than-expected

spending on pipelines.

Ian Byatt, Director-General of Water Services, said companies that had deviated from spending plans submitted to him in the last pricing review should not raise water prices to the limit allowed under the present regulatory system. He took a swipe at the rate of dividend payments compared with profit levels and investment, saying: "Unless there are very good reasons, I do not approve of dividend payments from the regulated business to the parent group which are in excess of what is needed to meet the cost of capital and to distribute to shareholders a proper share of the benefits of greater efficiency." Companies will have to explain to Ofwat how their dividends have been established.

Mr Byatt delivered his condemnation in Ofwat's annual report on financial perfor-

mance and capital investment in the industry. It was released as Thames Water launched the reporting season for water companies with a 22 per cent increase in its interim dividend and a 15 per cent rise in underlying pre-tax profits.

Frank Dobson, Shadow Environment Secretary, welcomed Ofwat's report as an endorsement of Labour's campaign against the behaviour of the water companies which it has waged in response to supply during the droughts and as a precursor for the planned utility windfall tax.

He said: "It really beggars belief that these monopolies have been allowed to make record profits, pay out record dividends and make record low investments during the year which was undoubtedly their record worst performance for the customers."

Ofwat will demand explanations from those companies who have underspent on their investment projections. It said not all companies had done so, and there could be legitimate reasons in some instances.

Mr Byatt said there was no suggestion that water companies should be returned to annual monitoring of their spending as they experienced under state ownership. But he emphasised: "We must make sure that there is no slippage in their performance, which is critical to customers. These are serious issues which I am currently exploring with the companies concerned and with the quality regulators."

The Water Services Association, which represents nine of the ten large privatised water companies, said water companies remained committed to investment. Julia Langdon, director, said: "Many things influence the timing of investment. These include the development of new technical solutions, the acquisition of planning permissions and need to schedule work so as to cause minimum disruption and inconvenience to local communities." She also said that companies had to prioritise work, such as dealing with last year's drought, improving leakage rates and responding to changing patterns in the construction industry.

Mr Byatt underlined prospects for water bills to start falling in the next price review, set for 1999, when he said that many companies had shown they could become more efficient and improve services while cutting operating expenditure in real terms. He said these cost cuts could be passed on to customers at the next price review.

Thames, which has been reshaping its business after disappointing forays into non-core operations, increased pre-tax profits before exceptional for the six months to September 30 by 15 per cent to £188 million. Dividends are up 22 per cent. But the customers aren't benefiting. They're simply being fleeced.

Thames Water increases interim payout 22%

By OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THAMES WATER ran into fresh controversy over utility dividends yesterday with a 22 per cent jump in its interim payment on the day the industry regulator issued a stern warning that companies should justify their payouts.

The company lifted its interim dividend, payable on February 4, to 11.2p. It said the increased payment has been fuelled by a reduction in the number of shares from a share buy-back programme, a strong contribution to profits from non-regulated businesses and "sound profit growth" in the regulated utility.

Thames bought back 10 per cent of its shares in July. Frank Dobson, Shadow environment spokesman, said the results and the dividend rise were signs that Thames was "fleecing" its customers. He said: "The scandal of privatised Thames Water just goes on and on. Interim profits are up by 15 per cent to £188 million, dividends are up 22 per cent. But the customers aren't benefiting. They're simply being fleeced."

Mr Dobson said the average bill in the Thames area had climbed from £99 to £181 since privatisation.

Thames, which has been reshaping its business after disappointing forays into non-core operations, increased pre-tax profits before exceptional for the six months to September 30 by 15 per cent to £188 million. One-off items, including £12.2 million on the premium of repurchasing convertible bonds alongside its last buyback of shares, cut the headline profit rise to 6 per cent, to £176 million.

Sir Robert Clarke, chair-

man, pledged further investment. He said: "Our customers, who have the lowest bills in England and Wales, have again not had any restrictions imposed on their use of water even though we have had another exceptionally dry year. I am delighted to announce that, in addition to our present £350 million annual investment programme to improve services, we plan to invest a further £150 million over the next five years in a variety of projects."

Some of the extra cash will go to curbing leakage along with programmes to reduce sewer flooding. Plans to build a new reservoir in Oxfordshire are being brought forward and the company said it would also look at extending the ring main in London.

Operating costs for utility operations increased 1.5 per cent above inflation. Thames said this was largely because of higher costs stemming from the dry summer and efforts to improve services. It forecast the rise in operating costs to be below inflation by the full-year results.

The regulated utility part of Thames Water provided for a dividend of £41.6 million to the parent company — up 7.5 per cent.

Thames has largely withdrawn from design and contracting businesses and reported a rise in the profits of its non-regulated operations. Those businesses, including overseas projects, delivered pre-tax profits of £9 million, compared with a £3 million loss.

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BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FTSE 100	3993.5	(-31.8)
Yield	3.91%	
FTSE All share	1065.50	(-12.38)
Nikkei	20955.05	(+72.70)
New York	5978.32	(+5.50)
Dow Jones	698.31	(+1.05)
S&P Composite		
US RATE		
Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	100 1/2%	(97 1/2%)
Yield	6.75%	(6.84%)

LONDON MONEY		
3-mth Interbank	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Life long 91	100%	(100%)
Future (Dec)		
STERLING		
New York	1.6101*	(1.6125)
London		
\$	1.6101	(1.6121)
DM	2.4316	(2.4508)
FFr	2.2222	(2.2757)
Sfr	2.0214	(2.0517)
Yen	183.71	(184.18)
E index	89.1	(89.6)

DOLLAR		
London		
DM	1.5080*	(1.5194)
FFr	5.0564*	(5.1325)
Sfr	1.2549*	(1.2810)
Yen	114.14*	(114.28)
S index	97.3	(97.5)

MOUTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Jan)	\$23.20	(\$23.50)
GOLD		
London close	\$381.70	(\$383.25)
* denotes midday trading price		

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Fraud concern

Senior City figures and politicians are becoming increasingly concerned about plans to move experienced Fraud Squad officers away from their specialist area and on to other unrelated duties.
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More jobs

The creation of thousands of North Sea oil jobs was signalled when the Government approved a pipeline to Bacton in Norfolk from three new oil and gas discoveries.
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The Times teams up with Sky

BUSINESS journalists from The Times will be featured in a nightly television programme starting on Monday on British Sky Broadcasting.

Sky Business Report will be hosted by Michael Wilson on Sky News every weeknight at 8.30. The programme will include reports from The Times newsmen from leading commissions including Michael Cook, stock market correspondent, Lindsay Cook, business editor, Anne Ashworth, personal finance editor and Robert Miller, who was this week named as personal finance journalist of the year.

The programme will give highlights of the main business stories in the following day's edition of The Times. It will also focus on market trends, business technology, small businesses, corporate affairs and personal finance. Sky News broadcasts 24 hours a day to over 70 million viewers in more than 40 countries. Sky Business Report will also be viewed on Sky News Australia and the Fox News 24-hour US News Channel.

Bock's Lonrho stake for Anglo

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

DIETER BOCK, said yesterday he would step down as chief executive of Lonrho, the mining, hotels and African trading company, and announced that he was selling his remaining stake in the company for £258 million to Anglo-American, the South African mining company.

He opted to put his 18.3 per cent stake in the company at 180p a share, fulfilling the terms of an agreement struck with Anglo in April. He will become non-executive deputy chairman of the company. Nicholas Morrell, previously deputy managing director, will become chief executive.

Mr Bock said that he was selling the stake because he did not want to have influence

at a crucial stage of the company's planned break-up and wanted to allay suspicion he would conclude the sell-off in terms that most suited his own interests.

Mr Bock has also previously suggested that he would be interested in reinvesting the proceeds in Lonrho's African trading interests once the break-up is complete.

The deal with Anglo, which now holds a 26 per cent stake in Lonrho, quashes speculation that the company had managed to unravel the option agreement with Mr Bock.

Anglo insisted yesterday that its interest in Lonrho had never cooled, but ruled out making a takeover bid for the rump mining company once



Bock: stepping down

Lonrho completed its plans to spin off its hotel and African trading interests. Julian Ogilvie Thompson, chairman of Anglo, said the company was making a long-

term investment and was looking forward to supporting Lonrho's mining businesses.

Anglo has been keen to expand its interests beyond its South African base. It insisted that it had established a good relationship with the Ashanti Goldfield company, in which Lonrho holds 30 per cent, although ultimate control rests with the Ghanaian Government.

Lonrho added yesterday that it was close to finalising the sale of its hotel division. Prince al-Waleed bin Talal is believed to have offered about £350 million for the Princess chain, while Stakis, the leisure group, is rumoured to be the front-runner for the £300 million Metropole chain.

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Consumer credit grows by more than £1bn again

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

CONSUMER credit growth in September topped £1 billion for the third month running, while home loans approvals continued to rise, suggesting the pause in the high street recovery last month is likely to prove temporary.

Consumer credit grew by £1.05 billion, despite a 0.3 per cent fall in retail sales and market expectations of a rise of around £830 million. The figures also showed that consumers were switching from credit card borrowing to credit deals offered by retailers. Growth in net mortgage lending slipped back in September

from £1.58 billion to £1.35 billion. But the number of new mortgage loans continued to increase, with 94,000 new approvals in September, a 30 per cent rise year-on-year.

M4, the measure of broad money supply, rose 0.8 per cent in September, bringing the annual growth rate to 9.9 per cent — just above the Government's monitoring range. Figures from the leading banks meanwhile, showed that total lending had risen £3.2 billion in the three months to the end of September, compared with £0.2 billion in the second quarter.

Stores warn of £3.5bn cost of EMU switch

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

EUROPEAN Monetary Union could land Britain's shops with a £3.5 billion bill unless current Brussels proposals are amended, retailers said yesterday.

The euro is due to go into general circulation in January 2002, three years after EMU is implemented. The British Retail Consortium (BRC) recommends that, if Britain joins EMU, the switch to the new currency should occur overnight, as happened with decimalisation 25 years ago, rather than have the euro and the pound running in parallel for six months, as is currently proposed. The BRC also

wants any switch delayed until February, a much quieter trading month.

These changes could cut to £1.7 billion the cost to be borne by consumers, retailers, shareholders and taxpayers, said the BRC. The cost to retailers across the EU is estimated at £22 billion.

The BRC said that it is neither for nor against Britain joining EMU. However, it said that retailers would be at the front line of implementation and would need three years to prepare. The £3.5 billion bill includes the cost of labelling in two currencies, training staff and adjusting software.

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Loss of experienced fraud fighters worries City

By ROBERT MILLER

SENIOR City figures, politicians and fraudbusters are becoming increasingly concerned about plans to move experienced fraud squad officers away from their specialist area and move them on to unrelated duties.

At a meeting of the Metropolitan Police Federation in London today the question of career management policy or tenure is expected to generate a heated debate over the most effective way to tackle the growing wave of international fraud. Much of the proceeds of such crimes are being laundered through the London banking system.

Under the controversial tenure policy it is planned to move officers after they have completed 15 consecutive years in a specialist area. One concession wrung from the authorities, however, is that the "specialists" could reapply to return to their former role after a two-year posting elsewhere. But because of the highly specialised nature of fraud investigations, which often cross a number of international jurisdictions, senior figures have gone on the record to spell out their concerns to *The Times*.

George Staple, Director of the Serious Fraud Office, said: "Co-operation with police fraud squads and ourselves has generally been very good. But both the police and ourselves have to

stay ahead of the fraudster. That means a high degree of specialisation which police officers must be given the opportunity to achieve by their long-term involvement in the investigation of serious fraud."

Mr Staple cited three of the most high-profile investigations, Bank of Credit and Commerce International, the Sumitomo copper affair and Barings, where the same police officers have been involved and brought an "enormous" amount of knowledge to bear.

Richard Clark, a partner in Slaughter & May, the City law firm that recovered £6 million for the Salvation Army after it fell victim to an international fraud, said: "Fraud is

a highly technical area which requires specialist knowledge and accumulated experience. It would be unfortunate if the ability of officers specialising in fraud was undermined by them being unable to remain in their specialist area."

Mike O'Brien, Labour's shadow Treasury spokesman, said: "The concern must be that moving experienced officers to other duties could undermine the important fight against complex fraud." Ian Westwood, vice chairman of the Police Federation, said there should be flexibility in implementing the tenure policy, particularly in specialist areas such as fraud.

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Pipeline promises North Sea jobs boost

By GEORGE SIVELL

THE CREATION of thousands of North Sea oil jobs was signalled yesterday when the Government approved construction of a pipeline to Bacton in Norfolk from a clutch of three new oil and gas discoveries.

The Shearwater, Elgin and Franklin fields will soak up £2.5 billion of development costs.

The Shell group estimated yesterday that the British offshore construction industry would benefit to the tune of 4,000 man years.

The decision to build the pipeline to Bacton rather than Teesside, however, will disappoint British Gas. The company has lobbied hard to land the gas in the North of England.

The Labour party also protested against the decision. John Battle, the shadow minister for energy and industry, stated: "There is very little transparency of decision-making from the Government. On the one hand they say that they want to make Teesside the chemical capital of Europe, yet on the other, they have allowed the gas effectively to be piped straight to Europe when it could have been of significant benefit to Teesside."

Shell UK Exploration and Production declared yesterday, however, that without approval of the new route to existing gas receiving facilities at Bacton, "development of Shearwater would not have proceeded".

Shell added that a "product stream providing chemicals feedstock could be routed through a new pipeline link to the central area transmission system to Teesside, depending on future demand in that location".

The Elgin, Franklin and Shearwater fields will boost the chemical, construction and gas industries in Teesside, Grangemouth and Bacton.

Shell yesterday awarded more than £320 million of contracts to Amec and SLP Engineering on Tyneside and Teesside.

Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade, said: "Shell and Elf, the field operators, have put me a proposal to separate offshore oil and substantial quantities of feedstocks to be piped to BP's Grangemouth plant, and to build a new pipeline to pipe the gas to Bacton in Norfolk."

"It has been suggested that I should direct the companies to build the pipeline to Teesside. I have concluded that I could not properly overrule the oil companies' proposals. Their preferred option keeps down the cost of extracting the oil and gas by some £200 million. Indeed, the companies have told me that without this pipeline route, the Shearwater project would not be economically viable and therefore might not go ahead."

"At the same time I have taken a number of measures to reassure the Teesside Chemicals Initiative (TCI) of the Government's long term commitment to the chemicals industry on Teesside."



HENRY ROBERTS, chief executive of Northumbrian Fine Foods, yesterday announced the company's first interim dividend payment in four years. The company reported a 10 per cent rise in half-year pre-tax profits to £409,000. The results were helped by a rise in productivity at its biscuit plant at Gateshead, after £1 million was invested in modernising production. After a full year from its wholesale distribution plant in Luton, overall sales were 8 per cent better, at £14.6 million. Earnings were 0.67p (0.6p) per share, leaving a 0.05p dividend, due on December 17.

Inquiry leads to fraud charges

By PHILIP JOLINE

A SWISS bank in Jersey, one of its senior managers, and a former partner of Touche Ross, the accountant, face a total of 29 charges of fraud after investigations of alleged currency trading losses of \$26.7 million.

Cantrade Private Bank Switzerland (CI) Ltd, a subsidiary of Union Bank of Switzerland, says it will deny the 12 offences alleged to have been committed between 1988 and 1993. The bank has suspended the manager involved, Peter Stoneman, pending the resolution of the nine charges against him.

The bank and Mr Stoneman have been charged under the Investors (Prevention of Fraud) (Jersey) Law, their alleged offences relating to the making of misleading and reckless statements and concealing material facts.

The former Touche Ross partner, Alfred Williams, a tax adviser who retired in 1994, faces eight charges alleging that he made reckless, misleading, false or deceptive statements.

All 29 charges relate to currency trading carried out in Jersey by Robert Young, who faced two fraud charges in Jersey in August. Ninety investors, who placed substantial funds with Dr Young via Swiss investment managers, allege that massive losses were hidden from them.

Dr Young, now at his Nottingham home on £10,000 bail, denies falsifying profit figures and concealing losses.

His company, Anagram Economics Ltd, was refused membership of the Association of Futures Brokers and Dealers in 1988.

Civil actions have been brought in Jersey against Cantrade and Touche Ross. Mr Williams is alleged to have audited Dr Young's figures claiming trading profits. Both Cantrade and Touche Ross deny the allegations.

Forecasters urge tax rise in Budget

THE CHANCELLOR should raise taxes in the Budget next month if he is to put public finances on a sound footing for the future, the National Institute of Economic and Social Research says in its latest forecast, published today. The research advocates tax rises of approaching £3 billion, but assumes a cut of £4 billion in its economic forecasts as the likeliest outcome. This would encompass a reduction of income tax of 1p in the pound and increases in allowances.

Even after tax cuts next month, the institute believes that the public deficit will rise to less than 1 per cent of gross domestic product in the fiscal year 1998/99 and move to a surplus in 1999/2000. However, this depends on the Government maintaining very tight control of public spending, says the institute, which also forecasts that output will rise by more than 3 per cent in 1997 and 1998, and that unemployment will fall to below two million in the first quarter of next year and fall towards 1.75 million at the end of the century.

Unit trust sales fall

UNIT trust sales to private investors fell by more than £140 million in September to £204.9 million, the lowest monthly figure this year. Statistics from the Association of Unit Trusters and Investment Funds, however, show that overall net investment in the 1,666 unit trusts now on offer rose by £160 million to £825.2 million. Investors cashing in last month accounted for an outflow of £1.2 billion compared with £1 billion in August. Sales of unit trust personal equity plans at £327 million were £20 million higher while corporate bond Peps sold £76 million against £62 million in August.

Confidence limited

AN INDEPENDENT consumer watchdog has found that one in three investors have no confidence about leaving their money with a financial institution for a long time. The annual report from the independent consumer panel of the Personal Investment Authority (PIA) also calls for regulation to be extended to mortgage advice and long-term care protection. In the report, the panel adds: "We want people to have easy access to complaint and redress mechanisms."

Zeneca turns up volume

ZENECA, the drugs group, reported a 14 per cent jump in sales to £4.01 billion in the first nine months of 1996. However, profit-taking after a recent strong run pushed down the shares 38p to £17.11. The company said the rise in sales was almost entirely because of strong volume growth in its pharmaceuticals division, volumes were helped by new product launches, but pricing pressures continue, particularly in Japan and some European countries.

Pressac pulls ahead

OVERSEAS demand helped Pressac Holdings, the car parts manufacturer, to turn in its strongest year-end results as its exports overtook its domestic turnover for the first time. A 20 per cent lift in its sales to the US helped overall turnover to rise 20 per cent to £19.7 million. This took profits to £6.45 million (£4.61 million) before tax, leaving earnings of 11.3p (9.0p) per share. A final dividend of 2.91p payable on December 13, makes a yearly total of 3.9p (3.5p).

Flemings to close fund

FLEMINGS, the investment trust house, plans to wind up the Fleming High Income Investment Trust because of disappointing performance. The 7,000 investors with £35 million in the fund will be offered either cash or a switch to the £170 million Fleming Claverhouse Investment Trust, the Save & Prosper Growth Fund, the Save & Prosper Premier Equity Income Fund, or the Save & Prosper Cash fund. Flemings and Save & Prosper are both subsidiaries of Robert Fleming.

Hotel float still on

SCOTTISH HIGHLAND HOTELS has confirmed it still aims to come to market early next month in a flotation that will value the company at £30.4 million. Doubts had been raised about the viability of a further hotel float after Principle Hotels decided to pull its flotation last week. But Hamish Grossart, chairman of Scottish, said the company had received strong institutional support and the float should proceed as planned on November 11 at a placing price of 125p.

Hidden insurance costs

HOUSEHOLDERS are paying £1.1 billion in hidden commission on home insurance, Direct Line, the UK's largest telephone-based insurer, has claimed. This equals 20 per cent of all premiums paid in 1995, it said. The insurer accuses rival banks and building societies of "restrictive practices" in home insurance and called for the law to split insurance from home loans. Intermediaries employed by banks and societies alone earned £720 million on home insurance in 1995, it said.

Reprieve on school fees

THE TREASURY has announced a reprieve for thousands of parents and grandparents threatened with loss of tax relief on school fees annuity plans after the Charity Commission withdrew the plans' charitable status earlier this year. Michael Jack, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, yesterday confirmed that plans taken out on or before June 20 1996 will continue to operate tax free, even if they have lost charitable status. Income from plans taken out after June 20 will be taxed.

Watchdog delays gas competition

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

ONE-AND-A-HALF million gas customers face a longer wait before they can shop around for their gas supplies. The delayed extension of gas competition, announced yesterday by Ofgas, was made to give British Gas more time to adapt its systems.

Dorset and the old county of Avon will get competitive supplies in household gas from February 10, while Kent and East and West Sussex should benefit after March 7. The two dates are about a month later than anticipated.

The change comes after a series of hitches in the first

round of competition in the South West. Many consumers complained that they had been mistakenly transferred to new suppliers and a substantial number received freak bills from British Gas for end-of-account settlement after problems with computers at TransCo, the pipelines division.

The Gas Consumers Council welcomed the delay. Sue Slipman, the director, said: "GCC wants domestic competition to be a success. If problems are not ironed out by the start of phase two it could bring domestic competition into disrepute."

Chernin appointed first president of News Corp

By OUR BUSINESS STAFF

PETER CHERNIN has been appointed president and chief operating officer of Fox Television. He is the first person to hold the title. Mr Chernin, 45, is currently chairman and chief executive of Fox Film Entertainment.

Rupert Murdoch, chairman and chief executive of News Corp, said that the North American operations of the group would be consolidated under the Fox Group, of which Mr Chernin will be chairman and chief executive officer. Chase Carey, 42, is appointed

co-chief operating officer and will continue as chairman and chief executive of Fox Television.

Mr Chernin, Mr Carey and Lachlan Murdoch, who was appointed managing director of News Limited in Australia during September, have been elected to the News Corp board.

The office of the chairman will be established with management responsibility for the worldwide operations of News Corp and will consist of Rupert Murdoch, Mr Chernin, Mr Carey, David De Voe, senior executive vice-president

and chief financial officer, and Arthur Siskind, senior executive vice-president and group general counsel.

"These appointments are designed to strengthen the management and coordination of the company throughout the world," Mr Murdoch said. "I look forward to working even closer with Messrs Chernin and Carey. With their widely expanded responsibilities I expect them to make a huge contribution both to our strategic planning and to the effectiveness of all our operations."

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AUTHORISED BY THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS IN ENGLAND AND WALES TO CARRY ON INVESTMENT BUSINESS

Electricity bid battle hotting up

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

CE ELECTRIC, the UK arm of the US group making a hostile bid for Northern Electric, bought more shares in the regional electricity company yesterday. Its holding is now expected to top 13 per cent.

A range of large institutions told the Stock Exchange they had sold large stakes in Northern, which is attempting to fight its second hostile bid in as many years.

CE Electric, a venture between US companies Cal Energy and Peter Kiewit, is refusing to make its offer final amid speculation that an agreed deal could be struck for a higher price. It has offered 630p an ordinary share, while Northern has indicated £7 as a more realistic figure.

The share price fell 8p to 639p yesterday. But unless there are further substantial falls, the US group will probably have to raise its offer.

Scholar team targets Nottingham Forest

By JASON NISSE

IRVING SCHOLAR, the former Tottenham Hotspur chairman whose desperate attempts to shore up club finances in the early Nineties led him to a controversial deal with Robert Maxwell, has emerged as part of a three-man consortium planning a £30 million deal to take over Nottingham Forest, the Premiership football club.

The main force behind the bid is Lawrie Lewis, a founder of Blenheim, the exhibitions group that was bought by United News & Media this month for £600 million.

The third member of the group is Phil Soar, a football historian and Forest fan who replaced Mr Lewis as Blenheim's managing director in 1991 but was forced to resign three years later.

They are proposing to buy the club for £5 million and inject a further £5 million,



Scholar: consultant's role.

with the idea of floating Forest on the stock market to raise another £20 million. The bid comes as a rival to an offer from Grant Bovey, the entrepreneur behind Watershed Pictures, the video maker. Forest has hired Price Waterhouse, the accountant, to find a new owner for the

club, which is currently controlled by 209 shareholders.

At least three quarters of the shareholders have to vote in favour of the proposals for a deal to proceed. Fred Reader, Forest's chairman, will give an update tomorrow on the sale plans at the club's annual meeting, at which he is also expected to stand down.

Mr Lewis, who lives in Monaco, plans to be club chairman in spite of having little interest in football.

Mr Scholar will be a consultant on footballing matters. He was Spurs chairman for nine years, during which time it became the first publicly quoted football club in England.

In 1990, his deal to borrow money from Mr Maxwell to complete the purchase of Gary Lineker led to censure from the Stock Exchange. He left after Spurs was rescued by a consortium led by Terry Venables and Alan Sugar the next year.

Lotus revs up for £64n rescue deal

By FRASER NELSON

LOTUS, the troubled car manufacturer, is expected to announce today that it has struck a £64 million rescue deal with Protion, the Malaysian car manufacturer, saving the British motor legend from a uncertain future.

Protion is understood to have offered £52 million for 80 per cent stake, while agreeing to take on £12 million of Lotus's debt. Romano Artioli, the Lotus chairman, will retain the remaining 20 per cent.

The deal comes after Lotus's failed negotiations with Daewoo, the Korean car manufacturer, and Chris Evans, chairman of TOAD, the security company. Mr Evans, who raised £50 million in preparation for the deal, said he had pulled out after discovering that General Motors had withdrawn its support. The order made up more than half of Lotus's sales.

□ Labour targets Thames, and others □ Policeman's lot should be a steady one □ Retailers want early Euro decision

Tapped into mainstream politics

□ YOU would think it slightly peculiar if the electricity to your home was regularly interrupted during the evening because too many people were watching *Coronation Street*. British Gas has not yet — not yet, though give them time — had to disconnect its customers in their thousands because it is a bit chilly outside. Even the telephone system gets cheaper and more reliable year by year.

By the standards of other utilities, the water industry is offering an appalling service. Much of the industry is unable to supply its main commodity in the quantity its customers demand for months at a time. We take this for granted, however hard we grumble, because water is somehow different.

Labour, though it may at first have flailed around attacking all available targets in the utilities, has realised lately that on water the party may be on the safest ground. The party chose the day before the start of the interim reporting season to "reveal" the disquiet of Ian Byatt, the water regulator, about rising dividends and falling investment. This was confirmed by Mr Byatt, whose annual report on the day Thames Water announced its figures also does not look like coincidence.

The difference in approach is instructive. Mr Byatt merely

suggests, in tones that express more sorrow than anger, that there seem to be cases where companies were spending more money on their shareholders than on keeping the pipes in good repair. He wondered why those companies had not taken the opportunity to explain the doubtless excellent reasons why this should be. He pointed no finger of blame.

Labour named the guilty men. The biggest cuts in investment were by North West, already labelled the biggest fat cat of them all and so a fair target. Severn Trent and, oh yes, Thames. All very unscientific, taking just one year's figures, and probably unfair, but good politics.

Assume, for a moment, a Labour government. A windfall utilities tax is then inevitable, with water bearing the brunt. Again unfair, and possibly counter-productive in its effects on investment, but again good politics. Labour is looking towards a form of regulation that is effectively profit-sharing, splitting the excess above given profit limits between company and consumer. The disadvantage is

that it encourages under-reporting of profits. Mr Byatt is moving that way, if slowly, by linking achieved investment levels to allowed price increases.

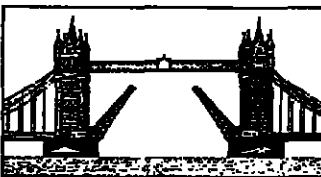
The paradox is that by shouting so loud about a utilities tax, Labour is tempting companies to offload as much spare cash as they can to shareholders before the election. A tax thereafter would genuinely deprive them of cash needed for investment, and repairs to cut leaks.

And guess which three companies, according to the regulator, have the worst record for leaks? Yorkshire, of course, Severn Trent again — and Thames.

Fewer moves to combat fraud

□ REGULAR career moves make sense in many areas of policing. No one is perfect, and too long an immersion in vice, or drugs, or any other specialised area carries the danger of, to put it at its politest, going native. Fraud is a little different. For all the gung-ho talk about beating international fraud, the truth is

PENNINGTON



that at best the fraudbusters are just about stemming the flow of illegal money entering the British banking system. What is worrying agencies such as the Serious Fraud Office is that if that policy of tenure is applied rigidly to fraud squads then years, often decades of experience, are lost.

Investigations involving such scammers as Nigerian letters, standby fee fraud often take years and cross four or five, or even more, jurisdictions. At the end, investigators are lucky if they can prosecute even one of the ringleaders. Experience gleaned on such cases is invaluable for later inquiries, as are the personal contacts built up with

overseas agencies such as Interpol, the FBI and others. More than \$50 billion has flowed out of the former Soviet Union since the collapse of communism, much of it absorbed directly into the international and banking systems. Most is almost certainly the proceeds of organised crime.

Most serving police officers accept that in the past there have been corrupt links between police and villains. But pay and conditions have improved and the chances of fraud squad officers, and most other policemen, becoming too close to their quarry is far less likely nowadays. Rather than force fraud squad officers to move on, possibly to be lost for good, one suggestion gaining support from those on the ground is that recruits should spend longer on other police duties before being seconded to fraud.

Currently, officers are moving into fraud after only short periods elsewhere. Far better they should gain experience in a broad variety of policing work before ending up in their chosen specialisation. There has been

plenty said about the difficulty of jurors facing up to fraud trials; the police have a steep learning curve to climb too.

Nightmare on EMU street

□ IF anything can be said for certain about the eventual switch-over to European Monetary Union, it is that the first few days will be a nightmare. Comparisons are being drawn with Decimal Day in 1971, but they are false. D-Day required a fairly simple conversion rate, 240 to 100. By contrast, the ecu is currently standing at 1,2687 to the pound, not a sum that lends itself easily to mental arithmetic.

The opportunities for a little fraud by retailers are plentiful — there was enough around in 1971. A big difference, though, is that in the early 1970s retail transactions were conducted in cash and by cheque. A conversion to a new currency today would require the overhaul of the software controlling every online direct debit and credit card payment system. The opportu-

nities for electronic chaos — well, one might prefer to stick with the fraud alone.

The views of the British Retail Consortium, that the switch-over will need three years of preparation, look optimistic. They are repeating only what the City has been saying for years, that those preparations require a decision to be made well ahead of any conceivable political timetable. If the political decision to stay out then goes against the practical decision to prepare for going in, an awful lot of money is going to be wasted by all concerned.

There used to be — there may still be — a quaint little pub near the Angel, Islington, whose unique selling point was to price everything in the old, pre-decimal money. Any budding entrepreneur looking for a new theme for a chain of bars come 2002 might give the place a visit.

Kicked off?

□ CHELSEA Village, owner of the football club, yesterday gave its unanimous support to Ken Bates, the chairman, after speculation that he might be replaced by Peter Middleton, the former Lloyd's boss. This must be the same "unanimous support" traditionally given in soccer to a club's manager on the eve of his dismissal. Expect Mr Bates's departure by Christmas, then.

Chairman of Matthew Clark dies

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

MATTHEW CLARK, the troubled drinks company, announced yesterday that Michael Cottrell, chairman, had died on Monday.

Mr Cottrell, 57, became chairman in 1992 and oversaw Matthew Clark's transformation into a major cider and drinks company through the acquisitions of Taunton and Gaymer. Mr Cottrell, who was also chairman of Enterprise Inns, was previously chairman of Taunton and managing director of Courage, the brewers.

The company said that Michael Garner, a non-executive director, would serve as acting chairman while the company hunted for a successor to Mr Cottrell.

Matthew Clark, which issued a profits warning in September, also unveiled a number of other management changes as the company began to outline its strategy to restore the company to

growth. The company's shares have more than halved since it issued the warning, which blamed the growth in popularity of "alcopops" for a collapse in sales of its premium packaged cider brands.

Peter Aikens, chief executive, has assumed direct control of the branded drinks division. The company is also seeking to appoint a marketing director at board level, while Andrew Nash, currently managing director, will leave because the position is becoming redundant.

Matthew Clark added that it would boost its marketing and sales team in the branded drinks division and is looking to recruit 40 additional personnel. The conclusions of a strategic review of the division, which produces brands such as Diamond White and Dry Blackthorn, will be completed by early January. The initiatives pleased the City as the shares rose 15p to close at 315p.

Float may conjure up £66m value for Druid

DRUID, an IT consultancy, is coming to the stock market via a placing that could value the company at up to £65.9 million (Fraser Nelson writes).

The company hopes to raise £6 million from new shares, of which 14.4 million will be available to investors. It will use the money to redeem £3.3 million of its preference shares and to open a new office.

Druid, formed from a management buyout in 1993, works exclusively with busi-

ness software. More than 90 per cent of its business comes from SAP software, Europe's largest-selling integrated business system.

In the year to June 30 Druid had pre-tax profits of £3 million (£1.3 million) from sales of £12 million (£6.2 million). It has forecast that it will make at least £1.75 million in the current half.

SBC Warburg estimates the value of shares at between 230p and 290p each.



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WORLD COVER

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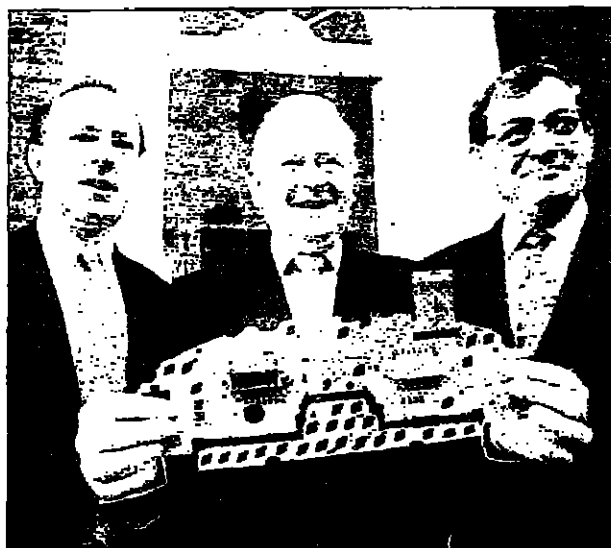
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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Pearson at record high as Carlton waits in the wings



Pressac's Geoffrey White, left, Roger Boissier, centre, and Huw Lewis, finance director, sell the shares rise 12½p

ANOTHER burst of speculative buying lifted Pearson, the multimedia specialist, to yet another high amid claims that Carlton Communications may be ready to pounce.

Pearson, which owns the Financial Times, Madame Tussauds, Thames Television, Penguin Books and Lazard Brothers merchant bank, finished 18½p dearer at a high of 750½p as 3.6 million shares changed hands in a thin market.

Only last week, BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of The Times, denied claims it was ready to bid. This time it was Carlton said to be lining up a bid of around 800p a share, valuing Pearson at £4.5 billion.

Any move is likely to be rejected by Pearson's beleaguered management that included the appointment of Majorie Scudamore as chief executive. Carlton, the independent broadcaster which now controls the independent television franchise for the London midweek area, has continued to confound the City by its seeming reluctance to make any further acquisitions, despite intense speculation to the contrary.

Some say Carlton may choose to wait until after the laws on media ownership are relaxed next month, allowing the group to make a bid for another broadcaster.

A spokesman for Carlton denied the group planned to bid for Pearson. Carlton ended 2p easier at 530p, where the group carries a stock market price tag of almost £3 billion.

The rest of the equity market continued to lose ground after the overnight setback for the Dow Jones average. It dipped back below the 4,000 level as investors turned cautious ahead of next week's US presidential election. An opening rally last night by the Dow failed to inject any renewed enthusiasm, with the FT-SE 100 index closing 31.8 points down at 3,993.5 in thin volume of 694 million shares.

Profit-taking hit Northern Electric after the bid and subsequent down raid by CE Electric, the US power generator. The price finished the day 8½p cheaper at 630½p as almost 4.5 million shares changed hands.

The terms of the bid value Northern at £677 million. Hopes among City speculators about a higher price being

paid by CE Electric appear to be fading. Last week's refusal by the Government to allow bids by Severn Trent and Wessex for South West to proceed made a home-grown counterbid seem remote. East Midlands Electricity, another possible takeover target, finished 3p easier at 542½p.

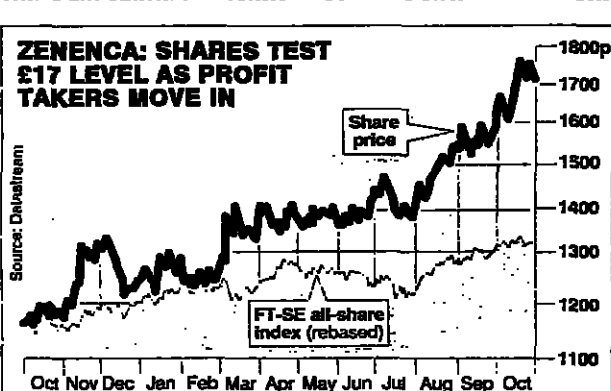
Takeover favourite Zeneca was an early casualty as the

say Zeneca is continuing to lag behind the progress made by some of its rivals. Brokers like Credit Lyonnais Laing are reluctant to urge clients to sell the shares, despite their high rating, saying the potential for a bid for Zeneca, or even a merger, is still high.

British Biotech fell 20p to 220½p as a large parcel of shares went through the mar-

ket. Morgan Stanley, the US securities house, placed a total of 21 million shares with various clients at 215p on behalf of Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank.

The sale, by two of the three suspended Morgan Grenfell asset management funds, raised £45.1 million and reduced Deutsche Morgan Grenfell's stake to 30 million



Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct

shares, or around 5 per cent. Water shares gained ground after the industry regulator called for them to explain their dividend policies. Thames Water, which kicked off the interim dividend season with some impressive profit numbers, rose 7½p to 552½p. There were also gains for Hydrant, 20p to 706½p, Severn Trent, 13p to 617½p, and Yorkshire Water, 18p to 604½p. South West fell a further 2½p to 592½p.

Speculative buying lifted Lend Lease 4½p to 163½p despite denials from Anglo American that it intends to make a full bid after the purchase of an 18.3 per cent stake belonging to Dieter Bock, the Lend Lease chief executive. It lifts Anglo's total holding to almost 26 per cent, which it describes as a long-term investment.

News that Matthew Clark intends to maintain the interim dividend was warmly received by the City and the shares rallied 15p to 315p.

Bumper profits lifted Pressac Holdings, the specialist engineers and manufacturers whose chairman is Roger Boissier and chief executive Geoffrey White, 12½p to 217½p. At the pre-tax level they grew 40 per cent to £6.4 million with demand said to be at record levels.

Further reflection of its joint venture with the BBC raised Fleetline 2½p to 61½p and shares of Peana Holdings were suspended at 125p pending several acquisitions.

GIIT-EDGED: Prices in London opened lower, reflecting similar falls on overseas bond markets. A stronger than expected rise in consumer credit succeeded in driving prices even lower. London was able to claw back most of the early losses with the help of former US treasury bonds on the back of a less than expected rise in US chain store sales.

In futures the December series of the long gilt rallied to close all-square on the session at £109½. A total of 82,000 contracts were completed.

In long, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 finished 3p ticks cheaper at £100½, while Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was one tick firmer at £103½.

NEW YORK: Pre-presidential election concern held back shares on Wall Street, where even a bond rally failed to excite. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 5.59 points ahead at 5,078.32.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 5,078.32 (+5.59)
S&P Composite 698.31 (+1.05)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 20,958.08 (+72.67)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 12,192.17 (+70.60)

Amsterdam:
EOR Index 581.75 (+4.40)

Sydney:
All Ordinaries 2,223.00 (+11.1)

Frankfurt:
DAX 2,673.62 (+30.21)

Singapore:
Straits 2,061.98 (+5.87)

Brussels:
General 9,922.06 (+46.92)

Paris:
CAC 40 2,125.74 (+24.65)

Zurich:
SIX Gen 777.80 (+5.43)

London:
FT 100 3,993.50 (-31.80)
FTSE 100 3,993.50 (-31.80)
FTSE Mid 250 4,434.7 (-6.4)
FTSE 250 1,902.3 (-13.3)
FTSE Europe 100 1,738.14 (+16.7)
FT All-Share 1,963.5 (-13.3)
FT Non Financials 2,057.19 (-11.6)
FT Financials 1,153.1 (+2.5)
FT Govt Secs 93.90 (-0.2)
SIBOR 3 months 5.90
SEAC Volume 66,550
US\$ (Deutsch) 201.44 (+0.11)
US\$ (Sterling) 1.628 (+0.001)
German Mark 2.4315 (+0.0009)
Exchange Index 80.1 (-0.5)
Bank of England official call (pence) 1.2625
SIBOR 1 month 5.1201
RPI (57.8 Sep 2.1%) Jan 1987-100 153.6 Sep 2.0%) Jan 1987-100

RECENT ISSUES

Beechcroft 161½
Charles Taylor 161½
Deirton Electm (IS) 160½
Elec Retail Sys 160½
Eurasia Mining 305
Fininvest 100½
Gen Interactive (100) 100½
Hartstone 8% Cum 121
Healthcare Reform 99½
Imperial Tobacco 366½
Interoute Tele 165½
John David Sports 293½
Lend Lease 163½
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MAJOR CHANGES

Rises:
Matthew Clark 315p (+15p)
Black & Veatch 315p (+15p)
Protobion 315p (+15p)
Flextech 611p (+21p)
Jones Stroud 425p (+10p)
Leopold 485p (+10p)
Logica 788p (+11p)
Premier Farnell 689p (+10p)
Eurochem (n/a) 228p
Cohen (n/a) 485p (+7p)
Falls:
Brit Biotech 220p (-20p)
Eve Group 120p (-7p)
Danka Sys 585p (-27p)
Chiroscience 354p (-12p)
Rascal Elect 279p (-8p)
Miro Food 897p (-50p)
Rank Group 415p (-7p)
Sainsbury J 355p (-14p)
GUS 604p (-14p)

Closing Prices Page 31

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

FTSE 100
Previous open interest: 64,175
FTSE 250
Previous open interest: 10,100
Three Month Sterling
Previous open interest: 4,020

Three Mth Euro Yen
Previous open interest: 11,000

Three Mth Euro DM
Previous open interest: 11,000

Long Gilt
Previous open interest: 18,000

German Govt Bond
Previous open interest: 20,000

Three Month ECU
Previous open interest: 10,000

Euro Swiss Franc
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Italian Govt Bond
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LIFE OPTIONS

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THE
TIMES
CITY
DIARY

Direct Line
for Robinson

PETER ROBINSON, the ousted chief executive of the Woolwich, will soon be working for Direct Line.

More than six months after he left the third largest building society, heading for a £3 billion flotation, he has decided to act as a consultant for the insurance company. Turning a new leaf on the allegations this year of irregularities concerning expenses and other perks — which he denied — Robinson will work with Peter Wood, chief executive, from Friday. Having had several options, Robinson said: "What impressed me most about Direct Line was its absence of bureaucracy and dogma."

Glad is Knight

FUNKY Angela Knight is clearly keeping abreast of the music scene. Speaking at a Big Bang conference yesterday, the Economic Secretary to the Treasury wowed her audience with an in-depth knowledge of the pop charts. "Ten years ago, on the threshold of the Big Bang, when Dire Straits hit the headlines, the domestic equity market turnover on the London Stock Exchange was £181.2 billion," she said. "Today, when all those of you men with red blood in your veins are watching the Spice Girls perform on television, the performance of domestic equities on the London Stock Exchange is some £646 billion."



"Never mind the weather - I'm watching the Footie"

Faith rewarded

TWO insurance executives have shot to the top of the Irish charts with an album of traditional hymns. John Kearns, who works for Hibernian Insurance, and his friend Bernard Bennett, general manager at Penco Insurance, are all set to pick up a double platinum for *Faith of Our Fathers*. The album features 20 hymns, including "Hail Queen of Heaven" and "Soul of my Saviour", from 52 musicians. Within its first week, the duo has recouped the £90,000 that they spent making the album. "Recent company executives told us that we were committing financial suicide," Kearns says.

President Powell

BUSINESSMEN staying at The Athenaeum Hotel in Piccadilly would choose Colin Powell as US President. Out of 320 guests surveyed, a quarter planned for the Gulf War veteran. Of current contestants who would make the best President, Bill Clinton was the favourite, followed by Bob Dole, then his running mate Jack Kemp. Big Bird, Barbara Cartland, OJ Simpson, and Hillary Clinton's hair stylist were among the more bizarre choices.

WHEN Luke "Skywalker" Johnson was appointed to the board of Shield yesterday, its share price shot up from 4.5p to 6.5p. As chairman of PizzaExpress and a non-executive director of My Kinda Town, the eligible bachelor and Oxford graduate has persuaded investors that the property dealing and development group is an incredible catch. The company will now be known as Lonsdale.

MORAG PRESTON

Richard Thomson on the chain's new lease of life

Hard Rock Café goes for a bigger slice of the action

YOU've travelled all the way to the Taj Mahal, a journey many people only dream about. Full of awe, you walk inside to be greeted by pounding rock music and the smell of hamburgers; on the walls hang electric guitars and other rock memorabilia. You sit down and order a plate of fries from the waitress...

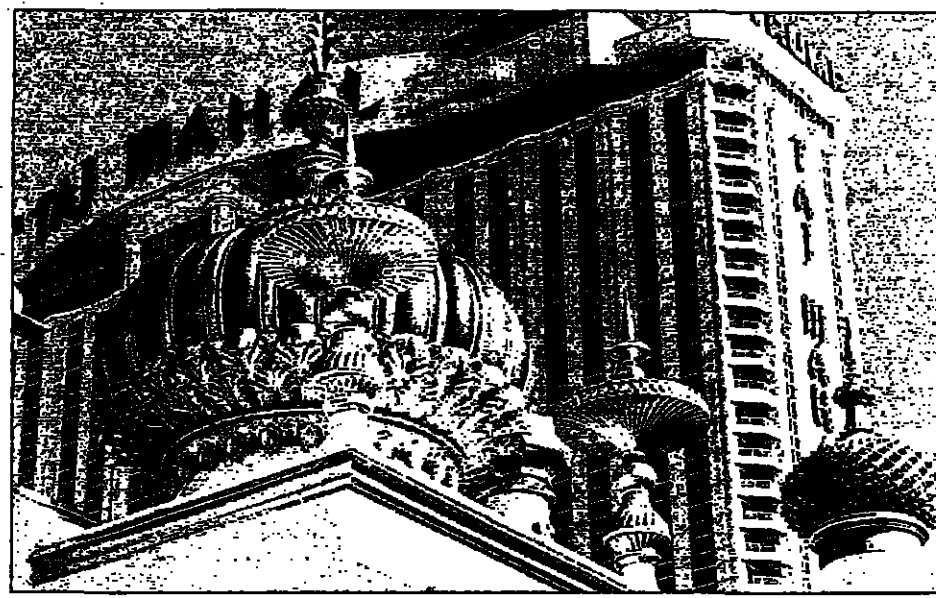
You are, of course, in the Atlantic City Taj Mahal casino, but perhaps more importantly you are sitting in the Hard Rock Café — or you will be once it opens next month. You are also encountering what is becoming one of the world's fastest growing brand names.

Ever since Andrew Tesse took over as head of the Rank Organisation and paid \$400 million earlier this year to buy out the remaining 40 per cent shareholding in Hard Rock owned by Peter Morton, the restaurant chain has taken on a new lease of life.

Rank now controls the brand worldwide and intends to drive it for all it is worth. Under Jim Berk, the president and chief executive of Hard Rock, the aim is to build the brand in the way that Richard Branson has expanded the Virgin name. Mr Berk said: "The thing we have to be careful of is not to hurt the credibility of the concept the founders started."

The restaurant chain is now proposing to fix up the Trump Castle, owned by Donald Trump, the flamboyant American property mogul and owner of the Taj Mahal, in its characteristic style of pop memorabilia and informal eating. Hard Rock will take 100 per cent of the revenues of the restaurant it installs there, but will take no part in the gambling or hotel part of the business.

What Mr Trump gets from this arrangement is an association with the increasingly valuable Hard Rock brand. Desperate to make his casino more attractive in the face of growing competition from



A Hard Rock Café is to open at the Atlantic City Taj Mahal casino next month



Jim Berk does not want to harm the credibility of the Hard Rock Café concept



trendier rivals, the Hard Rock theme ought to attract the younger crowd of gamblers who normally shun the rather staid establishments of Atlantic City.

These moves, however, are only one part of the expansion planned by Hard Rock's aggressive US based manage-

ment. There are now more than 60 of its restaurants around the world, but a further 22 are opening between now and 1997 in new areas such as Egypt and the United Arab Emirates. A few will be franchises, but the company prefers to run them itself because that way, it

says, it can more easily ensure the style and quality. Since there are already Hard Rock Cafés in many of the main cities in the western world, the company is planning to invent new themed restaurants so that it can have three or four in the same city — all under different dis-

guises. But the priority is developing the Hard Rock brand itself, which represents to its youthful clients a seductive image of cool rebelliousness, rock music, and nifty merchandise.

As a natural extension of this franchise, Hard Rock is building its live music subsidiary and developing its own recording label, which will put out compilations of classic rock and new artists.

As well as using normal music outlets, it will sell its music through its own stores, which already turn over other merchandise worth about half the chain's total revenues.

Building on the restaurant's status as a "destination location" — just look at the queues outside the Hard Rock on Piccadilly near Hyde Park Corner — it is also planning branded hotels and resorts. "We're thinking of anti-establishment resorts," Mr Berk said, meaning user-friendly places with big TVs, fabulous sound systems, and a cool attitude that will attract the young.

"Seven months ago when we bought out Peter Morton we had no business development department. Now we have 12 people working on it," Mr Berk said. But while the plan to build on the brand name makes good sense, it will not be cheap. "We're spending a lot of money," he added.

Fortunately, Rank has cash coming from sales of assets such as its stake in Rank Xerox to pay for expenditures such as the \$80 million being pumped into new Hard Rock restaurants over the next 16 months. Equally, fortunately, the restaurants give fast and generous returns. At present, the chain is worth about \$400 million, with an annual return of about \$100 million.

The expansion of the brand and of public recognition of the Hard Rock name will also hit at the encroaching opposition. The Hard Rock Café was founded in London in 1971 by Mr Morton and Isaac Tigrett as a kind of American diner with attitude. It was an immediate hit and it was only a matter of time before imitators came along.

The most successful has been Planet Hollywood, a diner themed on Hollywood films and backed by Hollywood stars such as Sylvester Stallone. It chooses sites near to Hard Rock Cafés, serves similar food and has gained a considerable following. If it comes to a fight to the death between the chains, brand recognition will be crucial — just as it is between Coca-Cola and Pepsi.

Mr Berk's ambition is to convert Hard Rock from being simply an "entertaining dining experience" to a fully-fledged international entertainment and leisure group.

The process is just beginning. But if he succeeds, Rank may find itself the owner of one of the best known — and most precious — brands in the world.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Stronger sterling and periodic crises are reasons to join EMU

From Mr Jerry Jackson
Sir, I read with interest Anatole Kaletsky's article (Exporters should start their prayers before sterling soars) on October 11.

If for short-term political expediency the next UK Government fails to place sufficient emphasis on the control of public spending, then, Kaletsky suggests, the next Chancellor may tolerate excessive strengthening of sterling in the short term, allowing the seeds to be sown for the next sterling crisis.

He also makes the point that such crises have been a depressingly regular part of the post-war UK economy. And more recently I would suggest, aided by huge advancements in information technology, these crises are

more easily heightened by the actions of speculators, resulting in even greater consequential damage to the economy (eg. George Soros in September 1992).

Until now I have believed the UK Government should be very circumspect before deciding to enter into monetary union with our European partners.

Now, in complete contrast to his previous anti-EMU utterances, I believe Kaletsky may have put forward the strongest argument for our early entry into the EMU.
Yours faithfully,
JERRY JACKSON,
Managing director,
H. W. Wallace & Co.,
172 St James' Road,
Croydon.

BAA retailing popular among passengers

From the Director,
Corporate and Public
Affairs, BAA plc.

Sir, One tries to be kind, but frankly Sir Terence Conran is in danger of becoming a national bore on the subject of retailing at BAA's airports.

What is it that really worries him? Is it our success?
It can't be the effect on our customers, because 90 per cent of passengers say that they want to see high quality shopping facilities at airports. Indeed, they continue to propose additional shops they would like to find there. This is confirmed by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. In its recent report on the company, it stated: "The general impres-

sion... is that passengers find the experience of passing through the three airports more enjoyable than was previously the case."

Mr Conran, who uses his well known name to get excessive coverage for his views on this matter, should simply accept that the retail facilities at our airports are (1) popular, (2) essential to the company's ability to fund vital airport infrastructure, and (3) the envy of most of the rest of the world's airports, which is why increasingly they are coming to BAA to discuss our management of this part of the business.
Yours faithfully,
DES WILSON,
BAA plc,
130 Wilton Road,
London, SW1.

Try not to do water industry a disservice

From the Director,
Water Services Association
Sir, Christine Buckley's article (Water, water everywhere, but never a drop in price, October 16) simply does not present a balanced view of the water industry.

Here are just five facts that she might have included to give a more accurate picture. Fact One: The price of water would already have come down in real terms had it not been for the massive investment needed to put right the neglect of decades. Fact Two: Prices are already rising less fast than in the 1980s even though investment has doubled. Fact Three: Over £17 billion has been invested by the water industry over the last six years.

Fact Four: The quality of drinking water has never been higher, and bathing waters and rivers are cleaner than ever.

Fact Five: Since last summer the industry has made significant progress in driving down leakage. The companies most affected by the drought have saved enough water to meet the needs of two million people.
By all means criticise where criticism is due, but your readers expect balanced reporting — not propaganda.
Yours faithfully,
JANET LANGDON,
The Water Services Association of England and Wales,
1 Queen Anne's Gate,
SW1.

Acceptance of flotation far from mutual

From Sir Jeremy H. Beecham

Sir, I chose to take out pension policies and life insurance with the Norwich Union partly because it was a mutual office.

I am far from persuaded that the proposed flotation will be in the long-term interests of policyholders, as opposed to the short-term interests of executives and advisers.

I might be more readily persuaded if the society's executives adopted a self-denying ordinance which ex-

cluded access to executive share options schemes and limited their future salaries and bonuses by reference to the return to policyholders (as opposed to shareholders). Will they do so?

Yours faithfully,
SIR JEREMY H. BEECHAM
7 Collingwood Street,
Newcastle upon Tyne.

Letters to the Business section of The Times can be sent by fax on 0171-782 5112.

British Airways may yet have its wings clipped

One of the longest ministerial deliberations of an Office of Fair Trading report must shortly come to an end with a statement by Lord Lang, the President of the Board of Trade, on the proposed British Airways-American Airlines alliance.

Why has it taken so long? We believe it is because the OFT has agreed with the views of a range of neutral organisations — from the Consumers' Association to the Air Transport Users Committee — and found this proposal to be anti-competitive. By favouring a referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, the OFT has made life rather uncomfortable for Mr Lang.

He must keep the consumer interest in mind as election time looms, but he is also under pressure from those who characterise the BA/AA proposal as good for "UK plc". Advocates of the alliance assume a protected home market monopoly position for BA must be good for British civil aviation as a whole, and choose to ignore any adverse impact on UK consumers.

The outcome of this debate is important to travellers to and from the UK. They may live with the impact of this decision for years to come, and if the alliance goes forward, they will certainly feel it in the long term through even higher air fares.

BA's business fares to the US from Heathrow continue to rise, being the highest per mile from any European city. Since BA formed its alliance with USAir in 1993, fares have continued to rise. The claims from BA/AA that the merger of the two largest carriers will increase competition and lower fares is simply not credible.

The American alliance could stifle competition, says David Coltman

house, now let us build ours," the argument goes. Of course, each alliance presents different competition issues for regulators. Our alliance created no monopoly routes, was not opposed by any consumer groups and was thoroughly scrutinised by the regulators.

BA says United and Lufthansa have a higher share of slots at Frankfurt than BA and American have at Heathrow. This is misleading because, unlike Heathrow, Frankfurt is not saturated. BA has a far higher share of available slots at Heathrow, than Lufthansa has of such slots at Frankfurt.

But there are other points which need consideration. This is a global business where all of us contribute to trade and economies around the world.

Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, welcomes foreign investment in the UK. But we too are making a significant contribution. United supports more than 2,000 British jobs. We have also boosted European economies by ordering 74 Airbus aircraft, directly participating in the success of

companies such as British Aerospace and Rolls-Royce. BA has never chosen to invest in Airbus products.

There really is more to the UK aviation industry than just BA. Would it really be right to promote that airline's interests at the expense of others such as Virgin or British Midland?

So what should Mr Lang do? Ideally, he should still consider referring the deal to the MMC, although political expediency may intervene. If there is no referral, he has to ensure that a competitive structure is put in place that allows all airlines to compete on a fair and equal basis.

In particular, airlines such as United and Virgin should be given the means to create real competition for BA/AA at Heathrow. After all, if we were brewers the OFT would be trying to achieve just that — to protect beer drinkers from higher prices through healthy competition.

The real solution is expansion of runways at Heathrow — but that will not happen. So Mr

Lang must ensure that BA/AA are not allowed to duplicate services at Heathrow or monopolise available slots. Any proposals should be subject to wide consultation: the OFT has promised as much already.

But what is not fully understood in the UK is that there are other hurdles to overcome. Currently there is no legal mechanism for slot redistribution at Heathrow so those airlines best able to compete with BA and American. This mechanism must be created. In addition, there has to be a process to ensure that other airlines are able to compete by offering the same kind of single-terminal connecting flights envisaged by BA and American. That means addressing the issue of terminal space.

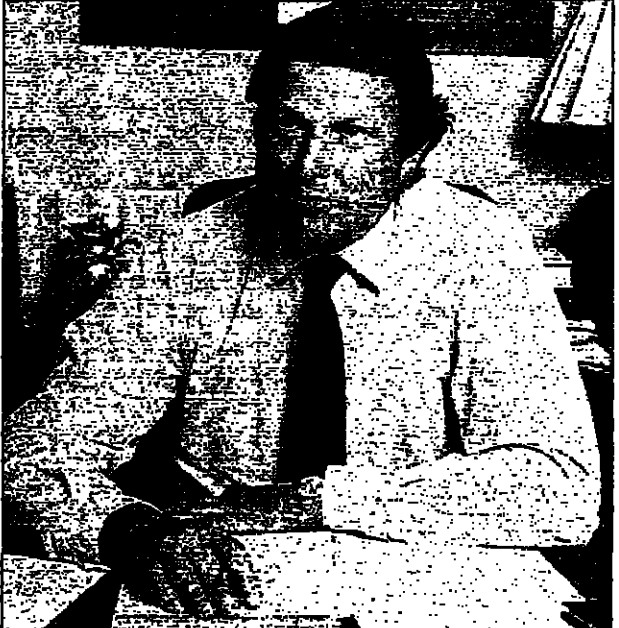
There also has to be agreement between the US and UK on so-called Open Skies — the right for airlines to fly where they want, when they want.

BA and American can expect intense scrutiny from the US Department of Justice and the Department of Transportation. Americans have a legitimate interest in the outcome, and their needs will be looked at closely. There is no guarantee that the American regulators will share the same conclusion as the UK, or the European Commission, which is carrying out its own investigation.

It is also inevitable that regulators will require that BA disinvest in USAir, the world's eighth largest airline, and its existing US alliance partner. USAir itself wants out.

Alliances can work for consumers, as well as the companies they serve. The regulators have a duty to ensure that alliances enhance, not stifle, competition. BA and American's credentials as sensible partners are flimsy because their networks at Heathrow overlap so comprehensively. If they were telecommunications companies, bus operators or brewing giants, it is doubtful that they would make it out of the gate. The BA/AA proposal may yet have its wings clipped and fail to fly at least as currently envisaged. Business travellers should keep their fingers crossed.

David Coltman is Senior Vice-President — Marketing, United Airlines



David Coltman wants the MMC to look at the alliance

This advertisement is issued in compliance with the Listings Rules of London Stock Exchange Limited ("the London Stock Exchange"). Application has been made to the London Stock Exchange for the whole of the ordinary share capital of Penna Holdings PLC ("the company") in issue and to be issued to be admitted to the Official List. It is emphasised that this advertisement does not constitute an offer or invitation to any person to subscribe for or to purchase securities. It is expected that dealings in the New Ordinary shares of 5p each on the Official List will commence on 27 November 1996.

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Share capital following
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Authorised		Issued and fully paid	
Number	Amount	Number	Amount
17,767,000	£888,350	11,000,250	£550,012.50

The Company is a holding company for a group of companies that are engaged in the provision of outplacement, coaching, career counselling, search and selection services for middle and senior executives.

A Prospectus has been published. Copies of the Prospectus may be obtained during normal business hours up to and including 30 October, 1996 from the Company Announcements Office (for collection only) at the London Stock Exchange, Old Broad Street, London EC2 and during normal office hours on any weekday (Saturdays excepted) up to and including 25 November, 1996 from the Company's registered office, Orion House, 5 Upper St Martin's Lane, London WC2H 9EA, or from Wise Speke Limited, National House, 36 St Ann Street, Manchester M60 2EP.

30 October 1996

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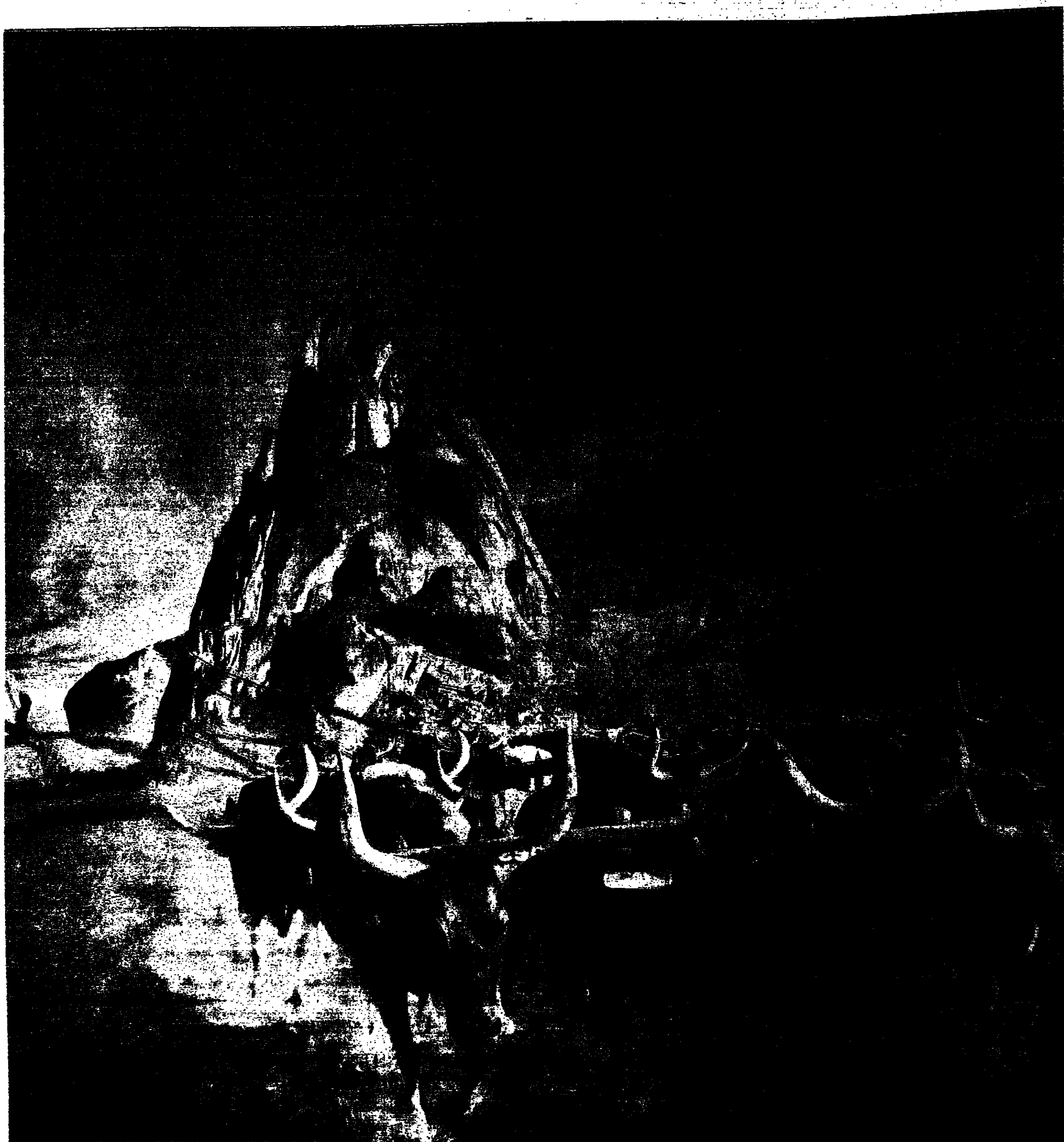
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FORTIS DELIVERS A POWERFUL PERFORMANCE

Time and again, Fortis has managed to record impressive profit growth. Profit over 1995 climbed by 15% to ECU 631 million. This achievement is largely due to the strength of the operating companies.

The Fortis companies, of which there are over 100, include such household names as AMEV and VSB in the Netherlands and AG 1824 and ASLK-CGER in Belgium. Plus companies like CAIFOR, a joint venture with Spanish bank "la Caixa".

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INSURANCE : BANKING : INVESTMENTS

Share losses across the board

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
Heavenly Breweries	12.50	+0.10	4.8%	18.5
Heavenly Breweries	12.50	+0.10	4.8%	18.5
Heavenly Breweries	12.50	+0.10	4.8%	18.5
Heavenly Breweries	12.50	+0.10	4.8%	18.5
Heavenly Breweries	12.50	+0.10	4.8%	18.5

BANKS

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
Bank of Scotland	10.50	-0.05	5.2%	12.5
Bank of Scotland	10.50	-0.05	5.2%	12.5
Bank of Scotland	10.50	-0.05	5.2%	12.5
Bank of Scotland	10.50	-0.05	5.2%	12.5
Bank of Scotland	10.50	-0.05	5.2%	12.5

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
Heavenly Breweries	12.50	+0.10	4.8%	18.5
Heavenly Breweries	12.50	+0.10	4.8%	18.5
Heavenly Breweries	12.50	+0.10	4.8%	18.5
Heavenly Breweries	12.50	+0.10	4.8%	18.5
Heavenly Breweries	12.50	+0.10	4.8%	18.5

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
Heavenly Breweries	12.50	+0.10	4.8%	18.5
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ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

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FOOD MANUFACTURERS

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LEISURE & HOTELS

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TEXTILES & APPAREL

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RETAILERS, FOOD

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RETAILERS, GENERAL

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is to be added to the

TELEVISION

It won't matter in your lifetime or mine: the BBC celebrates 60 years in front of the camera



RISING STAR

Done for effect: Paul Kieve, the young king of theatrical illusion, prepares to give *Scrooge* its ghosts

THE TIMES ARTS



FESTIVAL

Sir Anthony Caro leads the British contribution to Thessaloniki's year as Europe's 'cultural capital'



OFFER

Special prices for a cabaret based on the life of Jacques Brel: see our Theatre Club panel



Early days: Comet the baby elephant being filmed on the terrace at Alexandra Palace for the *Picture Page* programme in February 1939. *Picture Page* began on the opening day in 1936 and ran twice a week until the outbreak of war

The world's first regular public "high definition" television service was inaugurated on November 2, 1936. In his book *Television Jubilee*, which celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary back in 1961, Gordon Ross nicely dubbed it "the official birthday of BBC Television", for there was plenty of "prenatal" activity.

The great prophet of the medium, John Logie Baird, had demonstrated a prototype transmitter 11 years earlier. In 1928 Baird reported his first trials: in colour television, and in 1931 he conveyed the climax of the Derby by a form of outside broadcast camera to a London cinema.

But Baird's system was mechanical rather than electronic and rivals took to the field to explore other possibilities. While transmission with pictorial illustration was clearly of interest to the sole broadcaster of wireless to the nation, the BBC, if only in terms of a perceived threat, BBC contact with Baird was at an unofficial level. In his autobiography, *Sermons, Soap and Television* (published in 1988, long after his death), Baird reveals that the BBC's chief research engineer, a Mr Kirke, was exchanging trans-

missions down the telephone line with Baird's laboratory in Upper St Martin's Lane as early as 1926. But Kirke was found out and the trials were abruptly terminated.

Television was contemplated with no official enthusiasm at the BBC, and nobody was more reluctant than the Corporation's founder and first Director-General, John Reith. As his biographer Ian McIntyre confirms, Reith made little reference to television in his famous diaries either before or after its establishment. Later in life, Reith thought of television as "a social menace of the first magnitude".

Few took the sanguine view of Grace Wyndham Goldie, who in 1936 was the broadcasting critic of the BBC-owned magazine, *The Listener*. She was permitted to attend the demonstrations of transmission from the BBC's Alexandra Palace studios to the Radiolympia exhibition in August 1936, but not to write about them. "Television won't matter in your lifetime or

As BBC Television marks its 60th birthday, W. Stephen Gilbert recalls the race to transmit pictures before war called a halt

mine," her editor, R.S. Lambert, solemnly declared.

Goldie differed and went on to enjoy a pivotal career in television. In her autobiography of 1977, *Facing the Nation*, she exonerates the BBC mandarins at Broadcasting House who were "culpably, unimaginatively and selfishly blind to the potentialities of television".

Most people did think of it, in a phrase of the time, as an expensive flash in the pan. Nevertheless, Ramsay MacDonald's National Government thought the medium of sufficient merit to set up in 1934 a committee "to examine how it might be administered". Under the far-sighted chairmanship of Lord Selsdon, the committee recommended that a national service should be created and that the BBC should administer it. By this deci-

sion, British television was at once protected against two forces which would limit and distort the medium elsewhere in the world: government interference and commercial interests.

Selsdon also decreed that two distinct televising systems should be operated alternately until one was seen to prevail. Hence two studios were set up at Alexandra Palace, one for Baird's film-scanning device and the other for the Emitron iconoscope developed by EMI and Marconi. The opening ceremony was transmitted twice by each rival in succession, the sole variation being that a representative of the bidder spoke for his particular system.

Before the month was out, most of the Baird Company's equipment was lost in the fire that destroyed

the Crystal Palace. Even without this calamity, however, it was clear to all disinterested parties that the EMI-Marconi system would be taken up.

Programmes were broadcast from Alexandra Palace to the small band of viewers — "lookers", they were called — for 34 months until the service was closed down for the duration of the Second World War, a plug-pulling so unceremonious that a Mickey Mouse cartoon was not even allowed to conclude.

But in that short period, formats were evolved which would hold good for most of television's first 60 years. In those prewar months, 326 plays were mounted along with operas, ballets, fashion shows and programmes featuring cookery,

gardening, animals, the arts and chat. Major sports events were covered. Cecil Madden's *Picture Page* — "showing people of interest" — began on the opening day and ran twice a week for the duration, in the process inventing the magazine programme.

Cecil Lewis, one of the five BBC founders in 1922, was paid £800 a year to be television's director of outside broadcasts. From his retirement home on Corfu, Lewis (now almost 99) recalls making the first programme about sheep-dog trials (*Champion Sheep Dogs*, November 24, 1936). "The cameras couldn't be moved then. We got four sheep, stuck them in the park outside the Palace and had cameras up in the windows. There were the chaps and dogs down in the park below and we just followed them round for a bit, as well as we could from that position. We produced anything and everything that we could get hold of. We improvised all the time. We had to put a prog-

ramme out every day, so we did." Lewis vividly recalls the "enormous spaces" of Alexandra Palace. "We worked in a large empty room which I suppose you'd call a studio. There was no proper gallery with windows to look through and nice people on the other side to tell you what to do. We just picked up the microphone and got on with it."

That room, the EMI-Marconi studio, still exists and so, more surprisingly, does the Baird, though neither is open to the public. Dilapidation is generally the order of the day at the sprawling Palace which, only a month ago, was finally accorded a Grade II listing. Roger Driscoll, who chairs the Alexandra Palace Television Trust, believes the move will encourage developers to restore the studios and create a living museum on the site.

In a year when Shakespeare's Globe has been rebuilt on the South Bank, it seems little enough to ask that the cradle of television be restored and laid before the public. With its visionaries and its decriers, its innovators and its martyrs, the haphazard beginnings of television tell a very British story. It deserves a permanent, interactive memorial.

Michael Church on the squabbling in Thessaloniki, next year's European Cultural Capital

You don't have to walk more than 50 paces anywhere in Thessaloniki to realise something is afoot. Roman arches are swathed in wrappings, mosques nestle in scaffolding, Byzantine churches suddenly look new.

In the neo-Byzantine cathedral an army of artists is painting frescoes on hitherto plain walls, in acrylic colours and acres of gold leaf, but in an antique style: a shining-eyed, exultant explains that these will be the equal of the celebrated frescoes of Mount Athos — no, they will be better.

Wander into an exquisitely restored Art Nouveau mansion in the city's former Jewish quarter, and you get a trade about these frescoes from an architect, so angry he can hardly speak. He blames the

Greeks bearing controversial gifts

bishop who has hired the painters, and the nationalist, back-to-basics Christianity he represents.

Next year Thessaloniki is taking its turn as Cultural Capital of Europe, and this aesthetic spat is just one of many conflicts which the city's temporary enthronement has brought to a head.

The Art Nouveau mansion is the headquarters of the Cultural Capital project. Originally owned by a Turk, then

commandered by the Nazis, then housing Nato, and thereafter the Red Cross, it reflects the vicissitudes through which the city itself has passed.

The Greek Government is left of centre, while Thessaloniki — Athens's northern "co-capital" — is staunchly rightist. Cultural Capital funds are channelled via Athens, and between Athens and Thessaloniki there is a long history of rivalry. What's more, the local committee

overseeing next year's jamboree is split along similar political lines. As a result, what should have been a concerted cultural push by a city seizing its chance is riven by factionalism.

When I visited the project two years ago it was headed by a formidable Eurocrat named Anne Haritou, who had previously been the right-hand woman of Melina Mercouri (begetter of the Cultural Capital concept). Now Haritou and her entire team are gone, and

card: for the first time ever, the religious treasures of Mount Athos will go on public display. This means that the half of the human race forbidden entrance to the monks' all-male stronghold will finally get a sight of them too.

The architect enraged by those frescoes is Professor Lois Papadopoulos, a laid-back, bear-like man who takes me on a tour of the works-in-progress. First we pause beside a work stopped in its tracks. The Rotunda was originally a mausoleum, then it became a church, then a mosque, and then a church cum concert venue. Now in perilous disrepair, it is handed to everyone except parishioners on Sunday. Two months ago Papadopoulos and his friends staged a concert in it, which was violently disrupted

by protesters — led by the clergy — while police looked on.

Then we stop at a series of edifices: a gorgeous mosque built for Jewish converts to Islam which is now an art gallery; a textile factory destined to become the city's museum of modern art; a monastery being transformed into a cultural centre; a Turkish bath which is now a theatre; a new museum area in the port. The Roman forum, whose streets and arcades are in strikingly good repair, will be turned next year into an "open site".

On the ramparts overlooking the town is the biggest conundrum of all: the "prison", where Turks built over what Christians had added to the original Roman foundations. This was where political prisoners languished under the Nazis, and more recently under the Colonels.

Proposals to expose the Byzantine building by stripping out the prison were quashed by those who argued its historical importance. Poems and novels were written in there: it is part of Greece's folklore. Now a computer simulation will reflect its changing guises while it is gradually made ready as a penal museum, and its exercise yard is reborn as a theatre. Finally, everything becomes culture.

Nor are the home team's plans. "Fens are still polished over contracts," says Theodoridis, but he happily runs through his list: productions by Peter Hall, Franco Zeffirelli, Peter Stein, Giorgio Strehler, Robert Wilson — yes, the usual circus: Glasgow — cultural capital in 1992 — is for him the touchstone of success (the celebrated Saatchi campaign still reverberates).

In June this beautiful port city will bring out its trumpet

GREAT BRITISH HOPE

Rising stars in the arts firmament

PAUL KIEVE

Name: Paul Kieve

Age: 29

Profession: Illusionist and theatre effects designer.

Coming up: Kieve is designing the ghost effects for *Scrooge* which previews at the Dominion from November 6.

So how do you make ghosts appear on stage? "As a member of the Inner Magic Circle I am rather reluctant to reveal my secrets."

Oh go on. Please: "I won't say a word. I even get casts who work with the illusions to sign secrecy contracts. But, as a small clue, I get most of my techniques from Victorian works on illusion."

How successful is he? Very. Over the past five years Kieve has become the theatre's most sought-after effects



man. He makes 20 witches turn into mice in the finale of *Road Dahl's The Witches* (currently on tour), and he is renowned for his work on Stratford East's production of *The Invisible Man*, which featured 50 illusions, and for English National Ballet's *Al-*

ice in *Wonderland*. He has also worked with David Copperfield.

Does new technology help? "I hardly use it, although I'm not afraid to. My work tends to be based on 100-year-old techniques."

How long does it take to create an illusion? "The finale of *The Witches* took several months to create, whereas working out how to make coins disappear in a production of *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern* took a two-hour discussion with the director and Tom Stoppard."

The future: "I've got a few ideas for some shows that I would like to see happen." Such as? "I don't want to say in case anybody else does them." Typical.

GUY WALTERS

It's cabaret time

THE TIMES THEATRE CLUB

doubtless be aching to take advantage of these special offers:

Cabaret World at the Rheingold Club, 361 Oxford Street, W1.

Nov 5-16
● ANTHONY CABLE sings Jacques Brel, and tells the life of the singer-poet. The price of £20 includes a three-course meal with a glass of wine from 7pm, the show at 8.30pm and dancing until 3am. Tel 0171-629 5343.

Underneath the Arches, Great Suffolk Street, SE1. Fri and Sat throughout Nov Dec 7, 14, 21.

● THE Abodabs Company presents the *All Time Comedy Music Hall* of comedy, songs and, of course, audience participation. The restaurant serves modern European cuisine from 7pm, followed by the show. The cost is £20. Tel 0171-928 3493.

Cabare Stage, Covent Garden WC1. Fri and Sat until April 30.
● SEE *The Phantom of the Opera*, then enjoy a two-course

OVER the past year, the idea of eating, drinking and being entertained, all in the same place, has become one of the ways for Londoners to enjoy themselves. As is their wont, Theatre Club members have been in the vanguard of this cabaret theatre revival, and will

dinner and cabaret for only £35. Best seats to all top West End shows can be added at box office prices. Tel 0800 335588.

Curtain Call at Simpson's Strand, WC2. Nov 16, 23; Dec 6, 13, 14, 20, 21.
● SEE Anthony Newley in the revival of *Scrooge*, then enjoy a three-course meal with wine and cabaret, all for £69. Alternatively, combine the cabaret with the show of your choice for £69 to £79. Tel 01442 879000.

NOTTINGHAM, Theatre Royal, Nov 5-7. Save £2 on seats (normally £18.50 to £25.50) for the musical, *Crazy for You*. Tel 0115-948 2626.

CANTERBURY, Marlowe Theatre, Nov 19-20. Two £6 to £13 tickets for the price of one for *Onassis*. Tel 01222 187887.

BATH, Theatre Royal, Nov 4-6. Two £14.50 or £17.50 tickets for the price of one to Patricia Routledge's one-woman show, *Beatrice*. Tel 01225 448844.

TO BOOK, please phone the listed number during normal office hours. The price printed on the ticket you receive will be the special price negotiated by the Theatre Club. There may be a transaction charge to cover postage.

TO JOIN the Theatre Club either send a cheque for £12.50, made payable to The Theatre Club, together with your name, address and telephone number to The Theatre Club, P.O. Box 2164, Colchester CO2 2LL, or telephone 01206 22545 using your credit card. For general inquiries call 0171-387 9673.



Thessaloniki's historic Rotunda

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7 13 15 22 25 November | 2 December at 7.45pm
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ROYAL BALLET



CHOICE 1

Mahler's Tenth Symphony is performed by the LSO

VENUE: Tonight at the Barbican Hall



CHOICE 2

Diana Rigg brings Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf into the West End

VENUE: Now in preview at the Aldwych

THE TIMES ARTS

CHOICE 3

Joshua Bell plays the Sibelius Violin Concerto in Nottingham

VENUE: Tonight at the Royal Concert Hall



OPERA

The hottest ticket in Finland is for Insect Life, an adaptation of Capek's satire

OPERA: Finland hatches a teeming ants' nest; and Dohnányi sails through a complex score

Bigger than the beetles

I had to be only a matter of time before Josef and Karel Capek's allegorical satire, *The Insect Play*, achieved its metamorphosis into opera. With its fast-moving tableaux of sex-crazed Butterflies and capitalist Dung Beetles, its recurring leitmotif of a Chrysalis crying for birth into a brave new world, and its savage Ant-apocalypse, it might have appealed to Janáček, Shostakovich or Schnittke. But a Finn has done it: Kalevi Aho's new *Insect Life* at the Finnish National Opera is the hottest ticket in Helsinki.

Insect Life Helsinki

The 48-year-old Aho is the Capek's ideal partner. His music and his thoughtful polemic writings are propelled by an implacable social conscience; his symphonies are cross-crossed with emotional ambiguities and stylistic allusions; and his own "polyphony of independent musics" articulates a distinctive wit and vision. But just as Helsinki had a long wait for its new opera house, so Aho has had to wait ten years for the premiere of *Insect Life*. Some of Aho's frustration at the delay were channelled into his Seventh Symphony, virtually a suite of the opera's music.

The opera, too, is suite-like: yet it is driven forward by an inexorable energy, born of both Aho's commitment to his theme and his symphonic experience. It begins with a slow crescendo, as if were into opera: the composer himself, in evening dress, speaks a Prologue, the Tramp (Heikki Keinonen) lurches on, banters with audience and orchestra, the Lepidoptera flutters into dance, a footrot and a tango lead into the first aria proper, a love-poem sung by Butterfly Felix (tenor Lassi Virtanen).



Without a net, the Tramp (Heikki Keinonen) stalks a Butterfly (Anna-Liisa Jacobsson) in the long-delayed premiere of Kalevi Aho's *Insect Life*

HILARY FINCH

Cream from a golden calf

performance. Surprises had in fact been prepared, and a batched compromise resulted, with periodic illumination. Otherwise, the evening was a triumph, in spite of the indisposition of Philip Langridge, cast in one of the two leading roles. The American tenor Hans Aschenbach, familiar with the role from a production in Leipzig, stepped in to give a highly commendable account of the part. In fact he managed to achieve what few can in the role: to retain an attractively lyrical

Moses und Aaron Festival Hall

quality while encompassing the strenuous vocal demands. Asger Haugland was equally impressive in the speaking role of Moses. Formidable in his own power, he achieved the difficult balancing act of projecting an uncharismatic, ineffectual character in a musically sensitive manner. As the recent *Stein/Boulez* staging showed, the lack of

obvious dramatic action in this work can be compensated for by skilful disposition of the chorus, who become a leading protagonist by taking first one side of the debate and then the other. (The nature of the debate — whether God can be perceived by the ordinary people without the aid of graven images — was unfortunately obscured by the mistranslation of the crucial word "unvorstellbar", which here means a divinity not "inconceivable" but "unrepresentable".)

BARRY MILLINGTON

LONDON

HAPPY DAYS: Russian Lunin plays the renowned *Winnie the Pooh* production for Dublin's Gate Theatre. Here for two weeks. Tickets: Alnashua Street, N1 (0171-359 4404). Openings: 7pm. Then Mon-Sat 7.30pm; mat Sat, 3pm. Until November 2.

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: The evening begins with Riccardo Chailly conducting Brahms's *Sinfonia da Requiem*, the composer's musical warning against the senseless waste of war. Mahler's expressive Tenth Symphony follows, in the edition reconstructed from the composer's sketches by musicologist Terrell. The orchestra is the Royal Concert Hall, Barbican, SW1 (0171-638 8831). Tonight, 7.30pm.

WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF: Diana Rigg and David Suchet in Howard Davies's powerful Almeida production of Caryl Churchill's searing play. Almeida, Aldwych, WC2 (0171-415 6003). Preview from tonight, 7.15pm. Openings: November 6, 7.15pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.15pm. Mat Sat, 2.15pm.

ELSEWHERE: Rambert Dance Company arrives here on the fourth leg of this year's autumn tour. The varied repertoire includes Christopher Bruce's *Enduring the Winter* and *Swansong* and *Turn of Mind*.

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Macey

MAHLER'S TENTH SYMPHONY: The evening begins with Riccardo Chailly conducting Brahms's *Sinfonia da Requiem*, the composer's musical warning against the senseless waste of war. Mahler's expressive Tenth Symphony follows, in the edition reconstructed from the composer's sketches by musicologist Terrell. The orchestra is the Royal Concert Hall, Barbican, SW1 (0171-638 8831). Tonight, 7.30pm.

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THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre whirling in London

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ART GALLERIES

HAVE YOU LOOKED IN MY WINDOW? ROY MILES GALLERY 23 Essex Street, WC2 (0171-359 4404). Openings: 7pm. Then Mon-Sat 7.30pm; mat Sat, 3pm. Until November 2.

CONCERTS

PLANET TRE MUSIC FESTIVAL: The evening begins with Riccardo Chailly conducting Brahms's *Sinfonia da Requiem*, the composer's musical warning against the senseless waste of war. Mahler's expressive Tenth Symphony follows, in the edition reconstructed from the composer's sketches by musicologist Terrell. The orchestra is the Royal Concert Hall, Barbican, SW1 (0171-638 8831). Tonight, 7.30pm.

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OPERA & BALLET

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DANCE

SADLER'S WELLS: The evening begins with Riccardo Chailly conducting Brahms's *Sinfonia da Requiem*, the composer's musical warning against the senseless waste of war. Mahler's expressive Tenth Symphony follows, in the edition reconstructed from the composer's sketches by musicologist Terrell. The orchestra is the Royal Concert Hall, Barbican, SW1 (0171-638 8831). Tonight, 7.30pm.

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 30 1996



THEATRE 1
As seedy Archie Rice, Michael Pennington scores a hit in Osborne's *The Entertainer*



THEATRE 2
... while in Hammersmith a new play explores tensions in a pious Scottish community

THE TIMES ARTS



THEATRE 3
The exotic and the continental mingle with a homegrown realism at the Dublin Festival



TOMORROW
Robert De Niro's latest movie, and all the other big films, reviewed by Geoff Brown

THEATRE: A classic John Osborne play echoes into the 1990s; plus new work in London and at the Dublin Festival

The old joker still the beast

An ornate proscenium arch has been installed at the Hampstead Theatre, along with a lot of red plush and two cut-out ladies whose naked breasts light up and flash during the performance. This tawdry glamour is the spiritual home of Archie Rice, music-hall artiste, womaniser and hush, portrayed with unerring skill by Michael Pennington in Stephen Rayne's production.

The Entertainer
Hampstead Theatre

When John Osborne's play was first produced at the Royal Court in 1957, Olivier took the part, marking the Establishment's first endorsement of the Angry Young Man. *The Entertainer* is [Osborne's] diagnosis of the sickness that is currently afflicting our slap-happy breed," wrote Kenneth Tynan at the time. The play, and subsequently the film, came to epitomise that time of disillusionment and cynicism, but it is surprising to see how that interpretation fits our own times.

In seedy digs in a coastal resort where the Rice family is currently installed, Archie's daughter Jean (Siri O'Neal) arrives unexpectedly to find her beslippered grandfather Billy (Julian Curry) setting down with a bottle of Bass and the evening paper. Archie is performing in his latest money-spinning venture, a nude show at the Grand, and his wife, Jean's stepmother Phoebe, is out at the pictures.

The old man, a "real pro" in his day, abhors the kind of work his son is reduced to doing. "They don't want real people any more," he complains. "You had to be a personality in those days. But Billy's time is past, and nobody listens to him. We see Archie's act for ourselves, in all its debasement. Despite his blue jokes, mock patriotic songs and a bit of tap dancing thrown in, Archie is just a minor irritation for an audience which has come to see the nudes. He knows it, which is worse, but he does not care as long as they pay."

Phoebe has stuck by him all these



Family matters: Michael Pennington as Archie Rice and Siri O'Neal as his daughter Jean in Stephen Rayne's production of *The Entertainer*

years and borne him sons, one of whom is working with Archie while the other is fighting in Suez. Jane Wood is a revelation as Phoebe, a woman so ditz she can barely remain in her seat for more than a few moments and cannot even remember the name of the film she has seen that evening. But her extreme good heartedness is soured by gin into equally vehement fights. It is perhaps the only outlet for the

humiliation that she has suffered at the hands of Archie, though mostly she still hides behind the phoney good cheer.

In form though not in content the play itself seems oddly dated now. The plot is mired in the characters' own stasis, relying on the intervention of telegrams, letters, the arrival of a policeman at the door to drive itself forward.

The sexual politics can be observed

with interest as coming from another era, but the underwriting of Jean's part leaves a vacuum in the story which should have been filled, at least temporarily, with idealism and hope. Rayne's excellent production has only one lamentable lapse of judgment, which is to put a real nude on stage to no dramatic effect whatever. Except perhaps to show how much more our culture is now in the grip of commercialism.

Monday's press-night performance was an historic occasion in a melancholy way because of the absence of the respected theatre critic Jack Tinker, who died that day. When his death was announced at the end of the performance, it was greeted with shock and dismay which was as genuine from the stage as it was from the auditorium.

CLARE BAYLEY

Off the wall, on the boards

This year, Project Arts Centre firmly invaded the territory on which the official Dublin Theatre Festival chose not to tread in picking productions for its mini festival of experimental work.

The centrepiece of this festival within a festival, Crisus's *SAPA*, brought to mind just what a fascinating avant-garde performance experience *It's A Knockout* used to be. The young company specialises in taking over a venue (in this case Dublin's now disused Iveagh Market) and turning it into a nasty, diesel-powered world.

A thundering waterclock which periodically doused the Iveagh floor; a vicious, spiky tricycle; a buzzing fur-covered chainsaw; an immense rotating movie screen-plus-fairground ride and a 30ft wheelbarrow all saw action on the *SAPA* battlefield. Making arresting props, however, requires different skills from producing powerful theatre.

While Crisus certainly possesses the former competence, other elements, such as narrative, were left awkward and underdeveloped.

Meanwhile, Pan Pan Theatre Company's *Taylor's Requiem* dipped into dance, mime and performance art to pull out an extraordinary work, dotted with moments of rich, theatrical image-making.

The main festival programme climaxed in impressive style with three performances of *Silvius Purcarete's Les Danaïdes*, but 1996 was still a patchy year for homegrown productions, a fact boldly emphasised by the presentation of the festival's top award for an Irish production to a suburban farce, *Stella By Starlight*, by Bernard Farrell.

IRISH THEATRE

But if Farrell still, inexplicably, finds infinite jest in the Dublin middle classes, new Irish productions at the festival were not always so anyone in their choice of subject matter. Among the topics tackled were the social cost of Dublin's ever-expanding girth, the 1798 rising of the United Irishmen and the loves, pains and artistic struggles of Dante Gabriel Rossetti.

Last year's festival presentation from the Passion Machine was *Buddieia*, a boisterous piece which crammed 29 actors on to the small stage at Project Arts Centre and climaxed in a demolition of the set. The action in *Kitchensink*, this year's offering from the company, takes place in a suburban housing estate under construction and over many years. Four actors share all the roles, quick-changing their way from toy gun-toting kids on the run, to angelical old folks, furiously puffing on their terminal cigarettes.

Mercier's strength as a writer is an ability to be straightforward about his gloomy view of consumer-driven social decline without crumbling into didacticism. Nevertheless, *Kitchensink* misses the energy and tension that *Buddieia's* crowded stage offered.

Rough Magic provided a slow ride through the history of Irish drama with Stewart Parker's *Northern Star*. The story of yet another doomed Irish rebel hero — Henry Joy McCracken, a Protestant with a dream of an Ireland as a shareholders' democracy — the production stepped from lime-lit melodrama through a peasant lyrical style and on to some moments of starkly-lit Beckettian theatre.

LUKE CLANCY

Taking partners for the last warts

WITH an acting area not much larger than an average kitchen, the Bush Theatre has inspired designers to come up with ingenious ways of suggesting that the audience is in a forest glade, overlooking an archery field or, incredibly, beside a marshalling yard where (all done by mirrors) rail track vanishes into the distance. Robin Don designed that particular marvel, and the proportions of the Bush's temporary home at the Lyric Studio — ground area and height of an average house — must have seemed uncommonly generous.

For David Ashton's new play, set beside the sea in some bleakly religious Scottish town, Don provides the faded interior of a dance hall with a glimpse of the promenade beyond, and hangs above it one of his skyscapes of driving rain clouds. The effect is appropriately confining for a play concerned with resistance to the oppressions and hypocrisies of the godfearing. Fifteen or so years before the

Buried Treasure
Lyric Studio, W6

play opens, Frank McCaig set fire to the church, but cannot say why; returned to the community from hospital he defiantly re-opens his dance hall, the place condemned from the pulpit by the local minister. By the end of the play the townsfolk have set fire to the hall, but Frank has remembered the blank two hours of his life.

In retrospect the development and denouement seem too theatrically neat, but Ashton's writing has always pulsed with a vitality that can shove doubts aside when we watch his characters in battle. The play pits the grittily determined Frank (Alexander Morton) against his old rival and unctious traitor, the Rev Robert Sneddon (Jimmy Yuill).

In its way, *Buried Treasure* is as tight as middle-period Ibsen, even to the scene of self-discovery through crisis. Robin Lefevre's production



Alexander Morton and Jimmy Yuill come to blows in David Ashton's Ibsen-esque *Buried Treasure*

roles. Colette O'Neill's Sadie, mocked as a witch for her weird ways, has a voice like a piercing sigh and can fix our attention upon her simply by sitting motionless. Jennifer Black plays Linda, loved by one man, carried as a trophy by the other, and briefly sings

Stormy Weather, leitmotif of the play, in a rich, irresistibly danceable voice. As her valiant son, the young actor Anthony J. O'Donnell confirms the promise he showed recently in *The Winter Guest*.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Veteran trombonist for all seasons

IF EVER there was a jazz musician with impeccable credentials, it is Connecticut-born trombonist Roswell Rudd. In the 1960s alone, he played with the highly influential pianist Herbie Nichols, saxophonists Steve Lacy and Archie Shepp, and in the New York Art Quartet featuring John Tchicai, and the Primordial Quartet with Lee Konitz. On this occasion, he was sharing front-line duties with a fellow Carla Bley band alumnus, British saxophonist and saxophone player Elton Dean.

Roswell Rudd
Vortex, N16

Dean is celebrated these days chiefly for his freely improvised playing, and the rest of the band — pianist Alex Maguire, bassist Marcio Mattos and drummer Mark Sanders — are also among this country's most skilful operators in that area. It was therefore no surprise that the

quintet devoted both of their hour-long sets to seamless collective improvisations in which the human voice and Rudd has always been unequalled in his ability to "speak" through it. He ran through the whole panoply of sounds, from low rasps and growls through affecting mewls and whimpers to uninhibited shouts and roars, shadowed every step of the way by Maguire, Mattos and Sanders.

Dean, too, conjured an intensely human sound from his horns, his famously astringent

tone, particularly on his trademark saxello, providing the perfect complement to Rudd's full-bodied eloquence. When a conventional tune was eventually played, it was entirely fitting that it should have been

Happy Birthday — in honour of the fifth anniversary of the establishment of Dean and Mattos's club, Rumours, at this most hospitable of venues.

CHRIS PARKER

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Sometimes hilarious, sometimes sexy, and sometimes sad
(All times subject to availability)

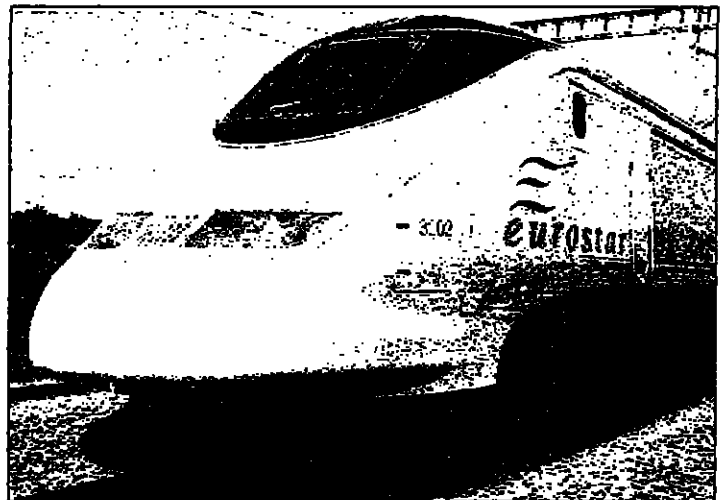
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THE TIMES

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HOW TO GET YOUR TICKET

Collect 18 differently numbered tokens from *The Times* and three differently numbered tokens from *The Sunday Times* (a total of 24 will be printed in *The Times* and four in *The Sunday Times* until November 23, 1996). The first application form will be published in *The Times* on November 16 when you can apply for your special free ticket voucher.

Applications must be received no later than Monday, December 9, 1996. Within 21 days you will receive your free ticket voucher from Eurostar together with an information pack including details of how to book your journey. Applicants and travellers using the free ticket must be aged 18 or over. Only one application for a free ticket voucher per household is permitted. Booking must be made between December 6, 1996 and April 16, 1997 and a minimum of 10 days before the intended date of travel. A valid 10-year passport or relevant visas are required.

*Free Eurostar tickets are subject to seat availability. Due to seasonal demand, free tickets are not available for travel from December 20, 1996 to January 5, 1997 and March 25, 1997 to April 10, 1997 inclusive. Abridged terms and conditions appeared in Monday's paper and will appear again on November 16. Full terms and conditions will be included with your information pack.

THE TIMES

3

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CHANGING TIMES

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La Crème de la Crème

Fax: 0171 782 7586

SCIENCE FUNDRAISING EDUCATION
FIGHTING CANCER ON ALL FRONTS

Secretary

Starting salary £14K

Regents Park, London

Do you want to move to a charity?

Our Regents Park headquarters is offering an opportunity to make an important contribution in its Drug Development Office which manages the development of new cancer treatments.

We require an experienced Secretary with fast accurate typing (60 wpm) and excellent w.p. skills - we use Microsoft Word. As a proactive organiser with a tidy mind you will be accustomed to working in a busy environment and juggling a variety of secretarial duties. In addition to the above salary we offer a contributory pension scheme and 25 days annual leave.

Please send an up to date CV with a handwritten covering letter to the Personnel Section, CRC, 10 Cambridge Terrace, London, NW1 4JL. Tel 0171 224 1333. Closing date 6 November 1996. Interviews to be held 12 and 13 November 1996.

The Campaign is committed to becoming an equal opportunities employer and has a no smoking policy. Registered Charity No. 225838

cancer research campaign



Partners' Secretaries

Price Waterhouse is seeking bright, dynamic, high calibre secretaries to work at partner level.

You will need proven organisation and administrative skills, excellent client liaison and secretarial skills and the ability to manage both you and your boss. You must also be able to plan ahead, use your initiative and have a flexible, proactive approach to work.

Advanced knowledge of Microsoft Office Suite including Word 6/7, Excel and PowerPoint/Freehand is essential.

If you have the above skills and abilities send your CV with a covering letter, stating your current salary, to:

Saskia Baylis, Personnel Officer,

Price Waterhouse, Southwark Towers,

32 London Bridge Street,

London SE1 9BY.

Price Waterhouse

Your world of opportunity

Price Waterhouse is a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales and is a member of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries.

Telstra is the biggest name in Australian telecoms, employing more than 60,000 people around the world. Our up-and-running UK operation is already set for dynamic growth, creating excellent opportunities for ambitious, self motivated people who share our customer focus and commitment to professionalism.

CUSTOMER CARE OFFICERS

London

c £16k + bonus

We are seeking several organised and efficient individuals to provide a high level of administrative support within our dynamic Customer Care Team.

Your charter within this team will include:

• Managing and prioritising a varied workload

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• Liaising with Telstra suppliers

• Providing timely and accurate billing information to customers

• Undertaking ad hoc projects relating to Telstra's overall customer service

You will also be encouraged to generate ideas for improving systems, processes and products.

You will have a minimum of two years' experience in a customer focused environment. Computer literate with, ideally, experience in MS Office you will need excellent interpersonal skills and a high level of initiative. The ability to work quickly and efficiently under pressure is essential.

If you would like to make your mark in a rapidly expanding company, we can promise you a share of the rewards, which start with generous benefits and excellent career opportunities.

To apply send your cv and current salary details to: Greg Ryan, Head of Customer Operations, Telstra UK Ltd, 42-44 Paul Street, London EC2A 4LB. No agencies please.

Equal Opportunities are central to Telstra's philosophy.

Telstra

Legal Secretary

P.A. for Senior Partner

High profile position available

within small law firm

Experienced of conveyancing

and office administration

essential. Knowledge of Word

for Windows and Excel

preferred.

You will be organised,

responsible and confident, to

grow with this position

Salary 2.5k

PLEASE WRITE WITH CV TO

JOSEPH WYSE & CO

74 SOUTH AUSTIN STREET,

HAYFAR,

LONDON W11 4LH

(NO AGENCIES)

Tel 0171 373 5533

All Box number replies

should be addressed

to:

BOX NO. 1000

C/O The Times

P.O. BOX 3553,

Virginia Street,

London E1 9GA

PA TO THE MANAGING DIRECTOR/
CORPORATE SECRETARY
FOR LEADING ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICE

Attractive office.

Audio typing, WordPerfect 6.1 and Excel.

Please enclose CV with covering letter to:

Derek Barker, Managing Director

Haskell & Company, 39 Harrington Gardens,

London, SW7 4JU

CHARTERED SURVEYORS -

MAYFAIR £21,000

Due to further expansion we require a well spoken

PA/Secretary to work for one of the Partners and a Junior

surveyor in a friendly office.

Must have excellent telephone manner, good audio skills

and knowledge of Word 6 (60 wpm).

Please contact Alice Voeckler, Saxon Law, 24

Brunton Street, London W1X 8JT on 0171 491 2188.

No agencies.

INTERIOR DESIGN ASSISTANT

Leading interior design firm near Sloane Square requires full

time trainee to join busy team. Must be smart, enthusiastic,

hard-working with a good sense of humour. Full day training

skills are required as an excellent organisational skills and

typing. Computer literacy a help but not a requirement.

Send full details and c.v. to:

JOANNA WOOD

Joanna Trading Ltd

7 Broomfield Place

London SW1W 8HU

PERSONAL SECRETARY

TO CHAIRMAN

of a group of independent schools, near

Notting Hill Gate.

We are looking for an experienced secretary with

short-hand, first class organisational skills, good

typing speeds (40-60 wpm) and a friendly manner to

set up meetings and deal with correspondence and

the daily routine of the Chairman's office.

Starting salary £18,000, 5 weeks holiday.

Please send CV to Mr. John Dalby, Chairman,

Davies Laing & Dick Ltd, 10 Pembroke Square,

London, W2 4ED.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

TO THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman of a substantial group of companies requires an

Executive Secretary to join a small Head Office Team

based in Mayfair.

The suitable applicant will have previous experience at

Board Level and will have a committed and flexible

approach to working hours. Duties include maintaining a

busy diary, travel arrangements and ensuring the smooth

running of the office.

A 'Can Do' attitude and the ability to prioritise are vital.

Applications in writing to:

Ref: ESD

39 Charter Street

Mayfair

London W1X 8LQ

PARTNER'S LITIGATION SECRETARIAL

POSITION

£20,000 (inc. PRP)

Insurance Litigation Firm

Jurets & Bannister is a leading insurance litigation firm servicing many

of the 'top 100' insurers and the City's major law firms. We have

a number of excellent opportunities for a motivated and energetic

secretary to join our team. The successful candidate will be

responsible for a wide range of administrative duties including

liaison with the courts, preparation of witness statements and

other legal documents. The successful candidate will also be

responsible for the day to day running of the office.

If you are interested in finding out more about this opportunity, please

contact Miss Suzanne Nicholas at the address below for an application

form in the first instance.

Jurets & Bannister

68/7 Great Victoria Street, London WC1N 3DA

Tel: 0171 242 3413 Fax: 0171 831 6088

Office Manager

Moscow

Mental Retard Group operates franchises for several well known high

street stores out of Russia and the former USSR. In the UK we are

looking for a competent, serious minded person to be based in the

UK to manage the day to day running of the business. The successful

candidate will be responsible for all aspects of the business including

staff management, financial control and customer service. The

successful candidate will be a proactive, energetic person with a

minimum of 5 years experience in a similar position. The

successful candidate will be responsible for all aspects of the business

including staff management, financial control and customer service.

To be pro-active, positive, confident and a 'can do' attitude, able to

work under pressure and respond well to tight deadlines.

Please apply in writing with details of salary expectations and

availability to:

Ref: ESD

39 Charter Street

Mayfair

London W1X 8LQ

GUILDFORD

P.A./Secretary required for Company

Chairman. Small office staff in country

house. Rural location, 7 miles south of

Guildford. Interesting and demanding

post for energetic, mature person

WAW/shorthand/audio. Salary c. £16,500

Please telephone/fax c.v. to Wintershall

Estate:

Tel: 01483 892167 / Fax: 01483 898709

P.A. ADMINISTRATOR

Television Co. £20k

Our client, an expanding group of companies

involved in Television, is looking to appoint a

highly personable P.A. Administrator.

Working largely on their own initiative, in

support of two Directors, the successful applicant

will take over the day to day administrative activities

of the company including some supervision

of other admin staff.

The ideal person must be numerate, able to

demonstrate a background of administrative

experience, preferably gained in a creative or

related environment, and be computer literate

particularly in the use of Windows 95.

The final salary of around £20k will be set

according to age and experience. In the first

instance please write with details to:

Sloane & Co.

112a & b Westbourne Grove

Chesham Road

London W2 6RU

Fax: 0171 229 4810

INTERNATIONAL "GIRL FRIDAY"

Opportunity for young secretary

Nuremberg - Germany

PA to secretary of the Chairman of a multinational - (20

Daughter Companies world-wide) to be able to translate

German to English to German, including Marketing,

Advertising, PR, International co-ordination, general office

duties.

Established in 1951 this company employs 1,250 people world-

wide involved in the manufacture of Power semiconductor

components. You will be ideally aged 25-30 years, preferably the

daughter of a successful family of an electrical/electronic

manufacturer in the UK, German speaking and of dynamic

personality, computer literacy is essential, with shorthand

skills. The application should be an English national as German

is essential to promote good relationships between English/German

companies. Accommodation is provided free of charge

Salary 4,000 DM/month gross paid in arrears

In the first instance please send your CV to:

Mrs A. Medcalf

Serrill House Ltd

4 Marshgate Drive

Hertford, Herts

SG13 7BQ

Tel. 01992 584677 Fax. 01992 554942

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advertising and marketing agency with exciting

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well-presented person to take charge of our

reception, look after clients, manage the office and

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You must be friendly and outgoing, with

outstanding computer skills (Apple/Mac preferred)

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unflappable, totally organised and methodical and

able to keep 15 demanding creative and media types

in order.

In short, this is a demanding and exciting role

requiring maturity, experience and proven skills.

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antoinette@drsadv.co.uk. World Wide Web:

www.drsadv.co.uk.

SECRETARY

£15,000 pa

Bright secretary sought by small International

Medical Repatriation company based in SW18.

Must have accurate secretarial skills, a flair for

administration and loss of common sense.

Please send CV to Health International, Unit F,

Paragon Street, London SW18 4DP.

Tel: 0171 734 0324

Fax: 0171 734 0324

E-mail: antoinette@drsadv.co.uk

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PR

The largest textile group of its type in Europe incorporating

leading and innovative in seeking to appoint a Senior PR

Officer. The Successful applicant will require:

A minimum of five years experience in PR ideally in men's

fashion with very strong contacts in the international

regional newspapers and fashion magazines.

Excellent communication and writing skills.

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La Crème de la Crème

Fax: 0171 782 7586

EXECUTIVE PA
£21,000 + BANK BENS.

A senior role in banking without overtime! In a small close-knit team, this involved PA role includes extensive travel arrangements, corporate entertainment, even bidding at Sotheby's on your boss' behalf. 50wpm typing, 80wpm shorthand, W4W. Please telephone 0171 628 9529.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS**IT CO-ORDINATOR**
£17,000 + BENEFITS

Juggle all your skills with this large international company. In addition to purchasing IT equipment and liaising with suppliers you will be co-ordinating the departmental administration and supervising the help desk. Relevant experience required. Please telephone 0171 628 9529.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS**ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE**
£21,000

Enjoy a range of perks including mortgage subsidy and five weeks holiday as PA to this executive who is responsible for European clients. A lively, customer aware person, ideally with financial experience. W4W, Excel, PowerPoint. Please telephone 0171 628 9529.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS**BANKING / IT**
£25,000

Working at director level at this established city bank you will organise international travel and co-ordinate top level meetings and presentations in a vibrant and innovative environment. 90wpm shorthand / 60wpm typing. Please telephone 0171 495 2321.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS**PRESIDENT'S PA**
£25-30,000 Package

American investors based in the west need an experienced city professional to liaise internationally and co-ordinate at the highest level. Must be able to anticipate needs and want true involvement. 80 / 55 skills. Please telephone 0171 495 2321.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS**West End... West End... West End****Witch Job??**
up to \$22,000
+ Bens

This international gold-mining company has 3 new vacancies for experienced secretaries. Your excellent organisational skills and ability to multi-task will be put to the test as you manage your boss's busy schedule, provide full support and liaise with worldwide contacts and clients. Confident use of Word, Excel and PowerPoint and 50 wpm typing. Please call Sue.

Telephone: 0171-434 4512 Fax: 0171-437 9239

Team Spirit!
£16,500
Great Bens

Are you a lively, team-spirited second jobber, looking for your next move? The market research team of an international, professional company needs an adaptable and enthusiastic secretary to prepare presentations and keep order. Good administration skills, typing and DTP knowledge are essential. Please call Lucy.

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants**City... City... City... City... City... City****Use Your**
Shorthand!
\$24,000 package

Thriving European bank requires keen and motivated secretaries to support directors/teams. Managing diaries, co-ordinating travel itineraries and liaising with clients are just some of the varied tasks. Use your shorthand to take minutes and dictation. You will receive excellent benefits and plenty of job satisfaction. Age: 20-45. Please call Vanessa.

A' Level
Opportunity
\$18,000 + Bens

Young, dynamic team of equity researchers needs A' level/graduate calibre support. Extensive client contact, travel co-ordination and presentation production are core responsibilities. There is definite scope to grow the role in this US investment bank. W4W essential. 50 wpm typing and minimum 1 year business experience. Please call Susan.

Telephone: 0171-390 7000 Fax: 0171-390 2997

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants**FASHION PA****£20,000**

This well known, West-End based organisation is looking for a PA to work for a newly appointed MD. This is a hands on role that will involve extensive diary management and communication both internally and externally. The successful candidate will need at least 4 years' solid secretarial experience at a senior level, and a proactive approach. 80 wpm shorthand and 50 wpm typing needed.

Angela Mortimer is an equal opportunities employer

All applicants are invited to be interviewed.

0171 287 7788

Angela Mortimer

HIGH PROFILE**Personnel £25,000**

A senior HR Director of a major Hotels, Leisure and Entertainment group is looking for a board level PA. This is a high profile position in a prestigious company where you will be expected to be fully conversant with a breadth of personnel related matters and to act as an ambassador in resolving issues.

You will need to have sound judgment, good business awareness, as well as strong people handling skills. Experience at senior/board level of a large blue chip organisation would be preferable. Skills: 80wpm shorthand, 60wpm typing.

Angela Mortimer is an equal opportunities employer

0171 814 0800

Angela Mortimer

Sue Cooke

Recruitment

A WINNING NUMBER!

required for International Groups Mayfair Headquarters. Personable, bright individual to fulfil Admin / Assistant Reception role. Basic keyboard skills useful. Salary c £12-£14K.

8 Hanover Street, Mayfair, London W1R 9HP
Telephone 0171 290 2602 Fax 0171 290 2619**Run**
THE
place

See/Office Manager

GORDON-YATES

A job for recruitment

If you enjoy working in a small relaxed company atmosphere and would like to be extremely involved and completely depended upon, then we have the role for you!

Working for three (ex-Oxford) Directors, as well as running the office, the busy role will require good typing skills and flexibility to do all other aspects of this very varied job.

Interested? Call us now on 0171-484 4488, let's talk.

SU1, SU3, SU7...**Westminster VIP's**
£14-17,000 AAR

A rare opportunity has arisen to work as a secretary in one of London's most exclusive offices. The successful candidate will be responsible for organising and managing the office of a senior executive. This is an exciting position for a confident, organised and motivated individual. Up to 28 days holiday/9020 + Windows.

Entrepreneur in
Knightsbridge
£20-25,000

Work on a 1st with this dynamic, successful entrepreneur who has a strong foothold in the restaurant industry. The successful candidate will be responsible for managing the office of a senior executive. This is an exciting position for a confident, organised and motivated individual. Up to 28 days holiday/9020 + Windows.

An Ideal Job
£18-20,000

Successful, spacious office in Knightsbridge and the vicar. The successful candidate will be responsible for managing the office of a senior executive. This is an exciting position for a confident, organised and motivated individual. Up to 28 days holiday/9020 + Windows.

ANDERSON HOWE 0171-824 8821
8 A Vauxhall Street London SW5 2ET Fax 0171-824 8827**TRICK OR TREAT?**

For our temps there are no tricks only treats! If you have excellent secretarial skills, are aged between 20-40 and have good knowledge of Windows Packages then we will treat you to:

- Highly competitive rates
- Paid Holidays
- Cash Price of £1000
- 52 weeks of work per year
- Temporary to Permanent opportunities

We have immediate bookings in a variety of companies including Banking, Leisure and Executive Search - So call today and work tomorrow!

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RECRUITMENT**FORGET OPEN**
EVENINGS**WE'RE OPEN**
EVERY EVENING!!**CITY & WEST END**
OFFICES**CONSULTANTS**
WILL INTERVIEW
AT YOUR
CONVENIENCE**BOYS, BUCKS &**
BOLLINGER!**£19,000 + Banking Benefits**

If you are aged 20-35, have a financial background, good secretarial skills and an outgoing personality then read on! This highly respected City firm need a secretary to support two busy Executives in a dynamic and highly social environment. This Company truly values their staff, so if you have rusty shorthand, refresher courses could be provided. Call now for immediate interview.

DIRECTOR'S SECRETARY**Compliance Department -****Finance House****£19K + Brilliant Benefits**

Involvement, variety, lots of client contact and still be able to leave at 5-5.30 pm. Sounds too good to be true. If you have 90 wpm, shorthand, excellent secretarial and communication skills and have the ability to co-ordinate three busy Directors, call to find out more.

TEL: 0171 734 8484
FAX: 0171 734 8501**MAINE-TUCKER**
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS**LEISURE IN**
HEMEL HEMPSTEAD**£22,000 + FREE LUNCH + PERKS**

Exciting new opportunity in a dynamic and fast growing company. The successful candidate will be responsible for managing the office of a senior executive. This is an exciting position for a confident, organised and motivated individual. Up to 28 days holiday/9020 + Windows.

18-21 Jermyn Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6HP
Telephone: 0171 734 7341 Facsimile: 0171 734 3260**MAINE-TUCKER**
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS**SW10 PR****£12K + BONUS**

Exciting new opportunity in a dynamic and fast growing company. The successful candidate will be responsible for managing the office of a senior executive. This is an exciting position for a confident, organised and motivated individual. Up to 28 days holiday/9020 + Windows.

18-21 Jermyn Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6HP
Telephone: 0171 734 7341 Facsimile: 0171 734 3260**MAINE-TUCKER**
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS**Stepping Stones****Up to £18,000**

Exciting new opportunity in a dynamic and fast growing company. The successful candidate will be responsible for managing the office of a senior executive. This is an exciting position for a confident, organised and motivated individual. Up to 28 days holiday/9020 + Windows.

18-21 Jermyn Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6HP
Telephone: 0171 734 7341 Facsimile: 0171 734 3260**Knight Frank**

"Knight Frank has worked for the great as well as the rich and famous, for governments and nations as well as individuals. And yet it remains a private partnership..."

...a business that has grown into the most prestigious international property company that appreciates and recognises the importance of their personnel. Currently the following vacancies exist in their Central London offices:

- PARTNER'S SECRETARY - COUNTRY HOUSES
- SENIOR SECRETARY - INVESTMENTS
- SENIOR SECRETARY - AGENCY
- JUNIOR SECRETARY - WEST END OFFICES
- SWITCHBOARD OPERATOR

Knight Frank offers a comprehensive salary and benefits package.

To apply for one of the above positions, contact Debbie Burke at ROC Recruitment Limited (sole agency) on 0171 499 8658 or fax your CV on 0171 499 9002. ROC House, 45 South Molton Street, London W1Y 1HD. Phone 0171 499 8658. Fax 0171 499 9002.

ROC**The Crone Corkill Temporary Team**
would like to invite you to an Open Evening on
WEDNESDAY 13th NOVEMBER

Have you ever considered temping?

Are you temping now, but looking for more from your agency? Here is a golden opportunity to find out more about temping for one of London's premier secretarial agencies.

If you have good WP skills and fast, accurate typing why not call in for a drink and an informal chat. You will hear about...

- Our top rates
- Our AIR MILES incentive for temps
- Our superb client base
- Our commitment to our temporary team

Interested?

Then join us on 13th November from 5.30pm onwards. Everyone attending will automatically be entered for our Champagne prize draw.

Please call now to reserve your place on 0171 434 4512.

Crone Corkill

JOSLIN ROWE
secretarial recruitment consultants**IMMEDIATE PA, GET INTO BANKING!**
c.£18,000 + BENS.

One of our premier clients, a blue-chip European investment bank with a strong presence in the City are seeking an immediate secretary to assist on a permanent basis with a proven view to permanent. Supporting two Senior Compliance Officers your administrative and organisational skills will be stretched to their full potential. Working closely with the Compliance team, co-ordinating schedules and liaising at all levels. Audio and copy typing using the Word for Windows software.

The above position is just one of the many positions we have within banking for career motivated secretaries.

Joslin Rowe Associates
Bell Court House
11 Blomfield Street
London EC2M 7AY
Telephone: 0171 588 7287
Facsimile: 0171 382 9417**JOSLIN ROWE**
secretarial recruitment consultants**TEAM SECRETARY**
c.£16,500 + BENS

Working for a well known investment bank, this busy role requires a professional secretary with solid citybanking experience and excellent secretarial skills. This varied position will involve client liaison, production of reports and client correspondence, organising travel and various ad hoc duties. Good knowledge of Word for Windows and strong audio skills are essential. Applicants should thrive in a fast-paced environment and cope with meeting deadlines. We are looking for flexible, enthusiastic candidates with an outgoing personality and lots of initiative.

Joslin Rowe Associates
Bell Court House
11 Blomfield Street
London EC2M 7AY
Telephone: 0171 588 7287
Facsimile: 0171 382 9417

JOSLIN ROWE
secretarial recruitment consultants**BILINGUAL LEGAL SECRETARY**
c.£17,500 + BENS

A Bilingual Secretary is sought with English mother tongue to work in the Bonds Legal Department of this French Bank. Duties will include typing reports, documents and letters for the team, booking meetings, diary management and client liaison. Knowledge of Word for Windows and Excel is essential along with fluent French and at least 2-3 years work experience in a legal environment. You must have spent at least one year in France and have excellent qualifications: A levels and a Degree would be ideal. This will be a busy role with a high content so fast and accurate speeds are required (60wpm+). Immediate presentation and a very flexible and mature attitude.

Joslin Rowe Associates
Bell Court House
11 Blomfield Street
London EC2M 7AY
Telephone: 0171 588 7287
Facsimile: 0171 382 9417

JOSLIN ROWE
secretarial recruitment consultants**CORPORATE BANKING SECRETARY**
c.£19,000 + BENS

This highly regarded Merchant Bank has a super position due to an internal change between departments. The two teams are Trade Commodity and Export Finance, a total of 11 people, the new secretary will be required to support both teams in a variety of tasks. Using MS Word for Windows and Excel and PowerPoint to type correspondence, produce presentations and prepare credit proposals. Other responsibilities include, issuing cheques, diary management, organising expenses claim forms, collecting foreign currency and arranging telephone calls. Key attributes include the ability to prioritise and recognise deadlines is essential as is a robust character. Previous experience within a financial environment, a good education and a typing speed of 60wpm is a necessity.

Joslin Rowe Associates
Bell Court House
11 Blomfield Street
London EC2M 7AY
Telephone: 0171 588 7287
Facsimile: 0171 382 9417

JOSLIN ROWE
secretarial recruitment consultants**AUDIO SECRETARY - INVESTMENTS**
c.£18,000 + BENS

Working within the Retail Investment Division within a well known investment bank, a huge amount of audio is included in the role so the suitable candidate must have audio skills. Supporting three company secretaries within this division, candidates must have a solid work history, well organised and be able to cope under pressure when at times this department can be extremely hectic. General administration, organisation of agendas and Board papers. A level of BTEC equivalent grades essential. Flexible, enthusiastic and able to use own initiative. Typing 50wpm.

Joslin Rowe Associates
Bell Court House
11 Blomfield Street
London EC2M 7AY
Telephone: 0171 588 7287
Facsimile: 0171 382 9417

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Rachel Kelly spotlights an award-winning £1.5 million reconstruction of a historical house which was ravaged by fire

Like a phoenix from the ashes

David and Shervie Price were dining in London when the call came. Their Lincolnshire home, the 17th-century Harrington Hall, was on fire. They drove through the night in scenes reminiscent of Rebecca when the De Winters learn that Mandelstam is burning. They arrived shortly before midnight to find 20 fire engines and 150 firemen, a clutch of neighbours, the estate agent who had sold them the house, the rector, the gardener, and practically the butcher, the baker and the candlestick maker.

The fire began. The Prices had begun restoring the house they had bought eight months earlier, redoing the roof, rewiring and replumbing. Fortunately, they had yet to move in their furniture and belongings. The likelihood is that an electrical spark lit the wood panelling.

The Prices decided that night that if it was humanly possible, they would rebuild the house from its smoking remains. "I think the welcome that friends and neighbours gave us reinforced our desire to rebuild," says Mrs Price. Five years later, the Prices are putting the finishing touches to an estimated £1.5 million restoration, courtesy of Lloyd's insurers.

Next week, the house is to be awarded with a Europa Nostra award for the quality of the work. Set up in 1978, the awards recognise projects that contribute to Europe's heritage. In the case of Harrington Hall, the award recognises "the dedication of private owners and the skills of all concerned in the remarkable rebuilding and conservation of a house mostly destroyed by fire."

"Lloyd's came up trumps. The day after the fire, we knew we could start on the work," says Mrs Price. Their experience is instructive for any homeowner faced with the devastation wreaked by fire. The first step was to erect scaffolding to cradle the remains of the house. By July 1992, seven months after the fire, the Prices had an empty shell with a new roof. The remaining structure was saturated with water from the firemen's hoses.

"We've still got a fan going in the cellar," says Mrs Price. "The top of the house naturally dries out first as the water seeps down through the floors. You start living in the house from the top down."

Restoration revealed the earlier structure of the house including three layers of tiled flooring. "Once work began, it was just so exciting," she recalls. "It was such a busy place, what with cranes lifting up steel beams, and everyone working towards a common goal."

The Prices employed six full-time builders. In all, about 60 craftsmen, scaffolders, roofers and plumbers have worked on the house under the watchful eye of Terry Hodson, the foreman from the local builder, Tasker's of Digby. "I think we are lucky in still having these specialist craftsmen down here," says Mrs Price.

In the end, they recreated the outside of the red-brick house exactly as it was. The entrance and staircase halls are as they were, restored using surviving fragments of panelling. Mrs Price discovered an unpublished photograph of the 17th-century attic stairs in Country Life's archive, which allowed them to be reconstructed from salvaged timbers by the Spilsby craftsman Rob Ley.



The restored Harrington Hall: it took craftsmen five years to transform a fire-gutted shell into a beautiful home



Mrs Shervie Price in her rebuilt library: its Baroque style was inspired by the Wren Library at Lincoln Cathedral

He has designed new rooms round the long corridor which runs the length of the house, from the old service quarters to the main reception rooms

and the "feminine" rooms, such as Mrs Price's room and morning room, which are painted pale colours and enjoy a touch of fantasy. The gunroom has been turned into a kitchen, with room for informal entertaining, with yellow and blue walls and witty light fittings made by Catherine Purves.

The Aga cooker has a tile painting of the phoenix rising from the ashes, naturally. The former kitchen, with its Edwardian range exposed, is now a billiard room. The morning room is papered with pictures of insects, birds, and animals living round Harrington Hall, together with the house's emblem, a phoenix, inspired by a scheme in a royal palace in Sweden.

One mirrored and marbled octagonal bathroom was inspired by a room in the Musée Carnavalet, Paris. The Wren Library at Lincoln Cathedral was the model for the Baroque decoration of the paperback library.

In Mr Price's dressing room, there are drawers and cupboard which take the form of a Vanbrugh door case. Mr and Mrs Price moved back into the home in April 1994, with their two grown up children. Mr Price is deputy chairman of Mercury Asset Management.

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RACING: FINE START TO SEASON ADVERTISES TRAINER'S RESILIENCE

Bailey continues revival with Cheltenham double

By Alan Lee

THERE have been moments in the past few months when Kim Bailey has wondered if things could possibly get worse. Disarray and divisions in his training career and public distress in his personal life conspired to create a depressing cocktail. The whisperers of the racing world, however, have been quick to speculate bleakly on his future.

But yesterday, on the Cheltenham course where his wild dreams were fulfilled only 18 months ago, Bailey's capacity to conquer adversity was advertised again. While the trainer spent the day seeking fresh blood at the Newmarket sales, his defiantly impressive start to the National Hunt season was maintained by two more winners.

Bailey, who last season slipped from third to seventh in the trainers' table, lies second to Martin Pipe this term and the first-race victory

of Herbert Lodge, an exciting novice who has required a vast investment of patience during two years off with pelvic and sinus problems, gave fresh cause for optimism.

Herbert Lodge, having only his second run over hurdles, toyed with modest opposition after his market rival, Marching Marquis, had been

NAIP: MICHAEL VENTURE
(3.40 Yarmouth)
Next best: Fine Times
(2.30 Yarmouth)

brought down at the first flight. A relieved assistant trainer, Alex Hales, said: "Kim has been talking about this one for weeks. He has had a lot of problems but we think highly of him and hope he'll be back here in March for the Supreme Novices' Hurdle."

Two seasons ago, Bailey trained the winners of both the

Champion Hurdle and Gold Cup at the Cheltenham Festival. Last March he ended the meeting without a winner and, soon afterwards, split unhappily with his stable jockey, Norman Williamson. His head lad also left and conditional jockey, Timmy Murphy, recently departed. Meanwhile, Bailey's marital problems brought unwelcome publicity and, last week, his father died.

It has been a precarious platform on which to launch a new season but Bailey has kept his balance and his nerve. His owners have been unfathomably loyal and the appointment of Conor O'Dwyer as No 1 jockey has so far been a smooth success. Yesterday's double, completed by Hunters Rock, improved O'Dwyer's record to nine winners from 17 rides for his new stable.

O'Dwyer, 30, is a consummate stylist and, although still based in Ireland, he has demonstrated his commitment to Bailey by applying for

a British jockey's licence. "It makes a lot of sense," he said. "I can use my Irish licence here but it means I have to show my whip, helmet and body protector every time I ride."

"The arrangement with Mr Bailey is working very well. I don't mind the travelling and, because there are six-day entries in Ireland, I can work out my schedule pretty easily, week by week. I've a lot of good horses to ride now and Mr Bailey takes priority — apart, of course, from Imperial Call."

The Gold Cup triumph of Imperial Call promoted O'Dwyer's talent in this country and planted his name in Bailey's mind. The horse was due to make his comeback at Clonmel tomorrow week but O'Dwyer reported: "I don't think he'll run. He missed four or five days' work after an overreach and there is no point in rushing him."

Obituary, page 21



Herbert Lodge becomes the first of two winners for Bailey and O'Dwyer at Cheltenham yesterday

THUNDERER

1.20 Jota	3.05 Happy Valentine
1.55 Miss Universal	3.40 MICHAEL VENTURE (nap)
2.30 Sarabi	4.10 Comanche Companion

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating:
3.40 MICHAEL VENTURE.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 1.55 Florid, 3.05 Damaway, 3.40 MICHAEL VENTURE (nap).

GOING: GOOD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

1.20 NEWPORT CLAIMING STAKES (€2,833; 1m 6f 17yd) (11 runners)

101 (8) 000000	WELL-APPROVED 5 (€2,833)	1m 6f 17yd	11 runners
102 (9) 000000	WELL-APPROVED 5 (€2,833)	1m 6f 17yd	11 runners
103 (10) 000000	WELL-APPROVED 5 (€2,833)	1m 6f 17yd	11 runners
104 (11) 000000	WELL-APPROVED 5 (€2,833)	1m 6f 17yd	11 runners
105 (12) 000000	WELL-APPROVED 5 (€2,833)	1m 6f 17yd	11 runners
106 (13) 000000	WELL-APPROVED 5 (€2,833)	1m 6f 17yd	11 runners
107 (14) 000000	WELL-APPROVED 5 (€2,833)	1m 6f 17yd	11 runners
108 (15) 000000	WELL-APPROVED 5 (€2,833)	1m 6f 17yd	11 runners
109 (16) 000000	WELL-APPROVED 5 (€2,833)	1m 6f 17yd	11 runners
110 (17) 000000	WELL-APPROVED 5 (€2,833)	1m 6f 17yd	11 runners
111 (18) 000000	WELL-APPROVED 5 (€2,833)	1m 6f 17yd	11 runners

BETTING: 7-4 Altona, 5-2 Florid, 4-1 Well-Approved, 3-1 Florid, 2-1 Florid, 1-1 Florid.

FORM FOCUS

WELL-APPROVED 5 (€2,833) is a 5-year-old gelding, trained by J. J. Gifford, who has won 11 races from 22 starts. He is a son of the 1995 Champion Hurdle winner, Altona, and is a half-brother to the 1995 Supreme Novices' Hurdle winner, Florid.

1.55 CORTON CONDITIONS STAKES (€5,022; 1m 21yd) (7 runners)

201 (1) 000000	FLORID 5 (€5,022)	1m 21yd	7 runners
202 (2) 000000	FLORID 5 (€5,022)	1m 21yd	7 runners
203 (3) 000000	FLORID 5 (€5,022)	1m 21yd	7 runners
204 (4) 000000	FLORID 5 (€5,022)	1m 21yd	7 runners
205 (5) 000000	FLORID 5 (€5,022)	1m 21yd	7 runners
206 (6) 000000	FLORID 5 (€5,022)	1m 21yd	7 runners
207 (7) 000000	FLORID 5 (€5,022)	1m 21yd	7 runners

BETTING: 7-4 Altona, 5-2 Florid, 4-1 Well-Approved, 3-1 Florid, 2-1 Florid, 1-1 Florid.

FORM FOCUS

FLORID 5 (€5,022) is a 5-year-old gelding, trained by J. J. Gifford, who has won 11 races from 22 starts. He is a son of the 1995 Champion Hurdle winner, Altona, and is a half-brother to the 1995 Supreme Novices' Hurdle winner, Florid.

2.30 LOUND NURSERY HANDICAP (€2,070; 5f 43yd) (11 runners)

301 (1) 000000	STYBAN 5 (€2,070)	5f 43yd	11 runners
302 (2) 000000	STYBAN 5 (€2,070)	5f 43yd	11 runners
303 (3) 000000	STYBAN 5 (€2,070)	5f 43yd	11 runners
304 (4) 000000	STYBAN 5 (€2,070)	5f 43yd	11 runners
305 (5) 000000	STYBAN 5 (€2,070)	5f 43yd	11 runners
306 (6) 000000	STYBAN 5 (€2,070)	5f 43yd	11 runners
307 (7) 000000	STYBAN 5 (€2,070)	5f 43yd	11 runners
308 (8) 000000	STYBAN 5 (€2,070)	5f 43yd	11 runners
309 (9) 000000	STYBAN 5 (€2,070)	5f 43yd	11 runners
310 (10) 000000	STYBAN 5 (€2,070)	5f 43yd	11 runners
311 (11) 000000	STYBAN 5 (€2,070)	5f 43yd	11 runners

BETTING: 7-4 Altona, 5-2 Florid, 4-1 Well-Approved, 3-1 Florid, 2-1 Florid, 1-1 Florid.

FORM FOCUS

STYBAN 5 (€2,070) is a 5-year-old gelding, trained by J. J. Gifford, who has won 11 races from 22 starts. He is a son of the 1995 Champion Hurdle winner, Altona, and is a half-brother to the 1995 Supreme Novices' Hurdle winner, Florid.

RACELINE

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Top miler retired

MARK OF ESTEEM, one of the best milers of recent years, was retired yesterday. He will stand at the Dalham Hall Stud in Newmarket next season. His owners, Godolphin, made the decision after the 2,000 Guineas winner's disappointing run in the Breeders' Cup Mile on Saturday.

3.05 EUROPEAN BREEDERS' FUND HERRINGFLEET MAIDEN STAKES (€2,900; 7f 3yd) (18 runners)

401 (1) 000000	ALPHEUS 5 (€2,900)	7f 3yd	18 runners
402 (2) 000000	ALPHEUS 5 (€2,900)	7f 3yd	18 runners
403 (3) 000000	ALPHEUS 5 (€2,900)	7f 3yd	18 runners
404 (4) 000000	ALPHEUS 5 (€2,900)	7f 3yd	18 runners
405 (5) 000000	ALPHEUS 5 (€2,900)	7f 3yd	18 runners
406 (6) 000000	ALPHEUS 5 (€2,900)	7f 3yd	18 runners
407 (7) 000000	ALPHEUS 5 (€2,900)	7f 3yd	18 runners
408 (8) 000000	ALPHEUS 5 (€2,900)	7f 3yd	18 runners
409 (9) 000000	ALPHEUS 5 (€2,900)	7f 3yd	18 runners
410 (10) 000000	ALPHEUS 5 (€2,900)	7f 3yd	18 runners
411 (11) 000000	ALPHEUS 5 (€2,900)	7f 3yd	18 runners
412 (12) 000000	ALPHEUS 5 (€2,900)	7f 3yd	18 runners
413 (13) 000000	ALPHEUS 5 (€2,900)	7f 3yd	18 runners
414 (14) 000000	ALPHEUS 5 (€2,900)	7f 3yd	18 runners
415 (15) 000000	ALPHEUS 5 (€2,900)	7f 3yd	18 runners
416 (16) 000000	ALPHEUS 5 (€2,900)	7f 3yd	18 runners
417 (17) 000000	ALPHEUS 5 (€2,900)	7f 3yd	18 runners
418 (18) 000000	ALPHEUS 5 (€2,900)	7f 3yd	18 runners

BETTING: 5-2 Damaway, 4-1 Happy Valentine, 3-1 Double James, 2-1 Double James, 1-1 Double James.

FORM FOCUS

ALPHEUS 5 (€2,900) is a 5-year-old gelding, trained by J. J. Gifford, who has won 11 races from 22 starts. He is a son of the 1995 Champion Hurdle winner, Altona, and is a half-brother to the 1995 Supreme Novices' Hurdle winner, Florid.

3.40 RANWORTH MAIDEN STAKES (€2,900; 1m 3yd) (13 runners)

501 (1) 000000	FLORID 5 (€2,900)	1m 3yd	13 runners
502 (2) 000000	FLORID 5 (€2,900)	1m 3yd	13 runners
503 (3) 000000	FLORID 5 (€2,900)	1m 3yd	13 runners
504 (4) 000000	FLORID 5 (€2,900)	1m 3yd	13 runners
505 (5) 000000	FLORID 5 (€2,900)	1m 3yd	13 runners
506 (6) 000000	FLORID 5 (€2,900)	1m 3yd	13 runners
507 (7) 000000	FLORID 5 (€2,900)	1m 3yd	13 runners
508 (8) 000000	FLORID 5 (€2,900)	1m 3yd	13 runners
509 (9) 000000	FLORID 5 (€2,900)	1m 3yd	13 runners
510 (10) 000000	FLORID 5 (€2,900)	1m 3yd	13 runners
511 (11) 000000	FLORID 5 (€2,900)	1m 3yd	13 runners
512 (12) 000000	FLORID 5 (€2,900)	1m 3yd	13 runners
513 (13) 000000	FLORID 5 (€2,900)	1m 3yd	13 runners

BETTING: 5-2 Damaway, 4-1 Happy Valentine, 3-1 Double James, 2-1 Double James, 1-1 Double James.

FORM FOCUS

FLORID 5 (€2,900) is a 5-year-old gelding, trained by J. J. Gifford, who has won 11 races from 22 starts. He is a son of the 1995 Champion Hurdle winner, Altona, and is a half-brother to the 1995 Supreme Novices' Hurdle winner, Florid.

4.10 CALIFORNIA HANDICAP (€3,725; 7f 3yd) (20 runners)

601 (1) 000000	FLORID 5 (€3,725)	7f 3yd	20 runners
602 (2) 000000	FLORID 5 (€3,725)	7f 3yd	20 runners
603 (3) 000000	FLORID 5 (€3,725)	7f 3yd	20 runners
604 (4) 000000	FLORID 5 (€3,725)	7f 3yd	20 runners
605 (5) 000000	FLORID 5 (€3,725)	7f 3yd	20 runners
606 (6) 000000	FLORID 5 (€3,725)	7f 3yd	20 runners
607 (7) 000000	FLORID 5 (€3,725)	7f 3yd	20 runners
608 (8) 000000	FLORID 5 (€3,725)	7f 3yd	20 runners
609 (9) 000000	FLORID 5 (€3,725)	7f 3yd	20 runners
610 (10) 000000	FLORID 5 (€3,725)	7f 3yd	20 runners
611 (11) 000000	FLORID 5 (€3,725)	7f 3yd	20 runners
612 (12) 000000	FLORID 5 (€3,725)	7f 3yd	20 runners
613 (13) 000000	FLORID 5 (€3,725)	7f 3yd	20 runners
614 (14) 000000	FLORID 5 (€3,725)	7f 3yd	20 runners
615 (15) 000000	FLORID 5 (€3,725)	7f 3yd	20 runners
616 (16) 000000	FLORID 5 (€3,725)	7f 3yd	20 runners
617 (17) 000000	FLORID 5 (€3,725)	7f 3yd	20 runners
618 (18) 000000	FLORID 5 (€3,725)	7f 3yd	20 runners
619 (19) 000000	FLORID 5 (€3,725)	7f 3yd	20 runners
620 (20) 000000	FLORID 5 (€3,725)	7f 3yd	20 runners

BETTING: 5-2 Damaway, 4-1 Happy Valentine, 3-1 Double James, 2-1 Double James, 1-1 Double James.

FORM FOCUS

FLORID 5 (€3,725) is a 5-year-old gelding, trained by J. J. Gifford, who has won 11 races from 22 starts. He is a son of the 1995 Champion Hurdle winner, Altona, and is a half-brother to the 1995 Supreme Novices' Hurdle winner, Florid.

4.40 CALIFORNIA HANDICAP (€3,725; 7f 3yd) (20 runners)

701 (1) 000000	FLORID 5 (€3,725)	7f 3yd	20 runners
702 (2) 000000	FLORID 5 (€3,725)	7f 3yd	20 runners
703 (3) 000000	FLORID 5 (€3,725)	7f 3yd	20 runners
704 (4) 000000	FLORID 5 (€3,725)	7f 3yd	20 runners
705 (5) 000000	FLORID 5 (€3,725)	7f 3yd	20 runners
706 (6) 000000	FLORID 5 (€3,725)	7f 3yd	20 runners
707 (7) 000000	FLORID 5 (€3,725)	7f 3yd	20 runners
708 (8) 000000	FLORID 5 (€3,725)	7f 3yd	20 runners
709 (9) 000000	FLORID 5 (€3,725)	7f 3yd	20 runners
710 (10) 000000	FLORID 5 (€3,725)	7f 3yd	20 runners
711 (11) 000000	FLORID 5 (€3,725)	7f 3yd	20 runners
712 (12) 000000	FLORID 5 (€3,725)	7f 3yd	20 runners
713 (13) 000000	FLORID 5 (€3,725)	7f 3yd	20 runners
714 (14) 000000	FLORID 5 (€3,725)	7f 3yd	20 runners
715 (15) 000000	FLORID 5 (€3,725)	7f 3yd	20 runners
716 (16) 000000	FLORID 5 (€3,725)	7f 3yd	20 runners
717 (17) 000000	FLORID 5 (€3,725)	7f 3yd	20 runners
718 (18) 000000	FLORID 5 (€3,725)	7f 3yd	20 runners
719 (19) 000000	FLORID 5 (€3,725)	7f 3yd	20 runners
720 (20) 000000	FLORID 5 (€3,725)	7f 3yd	20 runners

BETTING: 5-2 Damaway, 4-1 Happy Valentine, 3-1 Double James, 2-1 Double James, 1-1 Double James.

FORM FOCUS

FLORID 5 (€3,725) is a 5-year-old gelding, trained by J. J. Gifford, who has won 11 races from 22 starts. He is a son of the 1995 Champion Hurdle winner, Altona, and is a half-brother to the 1995 Supreme Novices' Hurdle winner, Florid.

COACHES	Wins	Runs	%	JOCKEYS	Wins	Runs	%
S. M. Jones	3	60	5.0	O. Murphy	4	13	30.8
M. Jones	2	12	16.7	J. Dwyer	3	57	5.3
M. Jones	13	46	28.3	P. Eddery	17	74	23.0
B. White	26	100	26.0	M. Leno	3	22	13.6
M. Johnson	8	33	24.2	R. Hall	36	165	21.7
J. Gordon	22	100	22.0	R. Hughes	30	30	30.0
L. Dwyer	11	50	22.0	L. Dwyer	9	147	19.7

FOOTBALL

Aston Villa must wait for police action on Bosnich

By RUSSELL KEMPSON AND RICHARD HOBSON

MARK BOSNICH, the Aston Villa goalkeeper, will have to wait until next month to discover whether he will be charged by police after an incident in the game against Tottenham Hotspur at White Hart Lane on October 12. Bosnich made a Hitler-style salute to Tottenham supporters, an intended joke that he admitted later had backfired badly.

Bosnich, who is not able to play for a month after undergoing surgery on his injured left knee, was subsequently interviewed by police under caution. "All the findings will be sent to the Crown Prosecution Service," a police spokesman said yesterday. Its decision is not expected until mid-November.

Villa will move closer to replacing Savo Milosevic before the end of the week. The Yugoslav striker flew to Italy yesterday and is on the verge of completing his £4.5 million transfer to Perugia. Brian Little, the Villa manager, intends to step up his pursuit of Pierre van Hooijdonk, the Celtic forward and Holland international, as he seeks to reinvest that money.

Van Hooijdonk's agent is in Britain, ostensibly to discuss Celtic's improved terms for the player, who has scored 50 goals in 78 appearances for the Glasgow club. However, he is also expected to meet Little before returning to Holland.

Little is a known admirer of Stan Collymore, who is unsettled at Liverpool. Still lives in Canrook in the West Midlands and supported Villa as a

child. Another alternative is Emile Heskey, the Leicester City striker, 18, whose transfer would surely beat the previous most expensive between British clubs for a teenager — the £2.6 million Leeds United paid Charlton Athletic for Lee Bowyer. However, Martin O'Neill, the Leicester manager, has pledged to keep his best players, including Heskey.

Irving Scholar, the former Tottenham Hotspur chairman, has helped to launch a £30 million takeover bid for



Bosnich: gesture

Nottingham Forest, whose 1-0 home defeat by Everton on Monday left the club languishing third from bottom of the FA Carling Premiership. Scholar is joined in a three-man consortium by Lawrie Lewis, a multi-millionaire based in Monte Carlo, and Phil Soar, a football author and lifelong Forest supporter.

They have met the club's board of directors, who will report to the annual meeting tomorrow night, when the shareholders are expected to

vote to call a special meeting for the end of November, which would then approve changes to the constitution to allow a takeover.

The consortium says it will inject £10 million immediately and raise the remaining £20 million through a stock exchange flotation next February. It will offer £12,000 to each of the 209 shareholders who hold an equal £1 stake in the club. Scholar and Lewis would join the existing seven-man board as directors, while Soar would become managing director. There have been three other offers to take over Forest.

Frustrated supporters of Brighton and Hove Albion, the struggling Nationwide League third division club, have voted to boycott the next home game, against Mansfield Town on November 9. The boycott was proposed by Dick Knight, the leader of the consortium that is trying to take over Brighton by ousting Bill Archer, the beleaguered chairman.

"We may have to be cruel to be kind," Knight said. "It is one of the few routes we have. It can help to show Archer that he is not wanted by the supporters."

Brighton still have nowhere to play next season, when their lease of the Goldstone Ground expires, although it is believed they are close to agreeing a ground-share agreement with Gillingham.

Derby County have released Paul Parker, the former England defender who has been on month-to-month terms since August.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL SECOND-HALF REVIVAL FALLS JUST SHORT FOR MINNESOTA



Salaam, the Chicago running back, makes a 13-yard gain in the first quarter of the victory over Minnesota.

Bears send Vikings to another defeat

By CHUCK SPORTS STAFF

A TOUCHDOWN in the second quarter by Rashawn Salaam helped Chicago Bears to beat Minnesota Vikings 15-13 in Minneapolis on Monday night.

The Bears trailed 3-2 after the opening quarter, but scored 13 consecutive points in the second period. Salaam's one-yard scoring run, which capped a seven-play, 58-yard drive, was sandwiched between field goals of 41 and 44 yards from Jeff Jaeger, the second of which was set up by Mark Carrier's interception of a Warren Moon pass.

The Vikings scored the only points of the second half in the third quarter, as Qadry Ismail completed a 54-yard touchdown to make it 15-10. Scott Sisson added a 43-yard field goal to close the gap to 15-13.

Dave Krieg completed 23 of 35 passes for 187 yards with two interceptions for Chicago. Moon managed 15 of 26 for 218 yards before leaving the field with a sprained ankle in the third quarter.

The Chicago special team had put the first points on the board through a safety, when Kevin Minnifield blocked a punt from Mitch Berger. They were in action again in the fourth quarter, when Sean Harris blocked a field goal attempt that would have put the Vikings ahead.

Brian Cox, the Chicago line-backer, stripped Brad Johnson, the replacement quarterback for Minnesota, in the closing minutes and recovered the fumble himself to seal the win for the Bears. The result meant a third defeat in four games for the Vikings and a record of 5-3, two games behind Green Bay Packers, who lead the NFC central division.

Players call off strike over television money

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

THE long-running dispute between the Football League and the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) appears to have been settled, averting a possible strike by Nationwide League players. It is believed that the PFA has accepted a deal worth about £1.2 million to withdraw the threat of industrial action.

A meeting of the 72 League clubs in London on November 14 is expected to confirm the settlement, which was negotiated a week ago. The PFA pulled back from the brink of announcing the result of a ballot among its members, believed to be overwhelmingly in favour of a strike, to take part in last-minute discussions with the League.

"We had to compromise and so did they," a League spokesman said yesterday. "The agreement is only provisional and we will be seeking the opinions of the clubs on the new offer, but it is likely that they will ratify it."

The dispute involved the amount of money received by the PFA from the League's television revenue. Traditional-

ly, it amounted to ten per cent, which gave the PFA £560,000 last year. However, the League changed its rules at its last annual meeting to make the payment discretionary.

That signalled a lengthy, often bitter, disagreement between the sides, particularly in light of the League's new £125 million five-year deal with BSkyB. The PFA wanted the ten per cent figure reinstated, but the League refused, claiming that any industrial action would be illegal.

The PFA was due to announce the result of its ballot on October 19, which could have led to Nationwide League players withdrawing their services if the television cameras were not turned off. However, after eleven-hour discussions last week, a compromise was struck. Though the PFA has not succeeded in its efforts to have the ten per cent restored, which would have given it £2.5 million, they have agreed to a £1.2 million package that more than doubles their previous share of the League's television income.

Norwich aim to strengthen position

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

FOUR months ago, Mike Walker donned his shining armour, saddled up his white charger and rode back to Norfolk to rescue Norwich City. The club had declined since his hasty departure 2½ years earlier and was in desperate need of assistance. Walker has duly obliged.

Norwich lie second in the Nationwide League first division and, this evening, have the chance to press their claims further for a return to the FA Carling Premiership when they play Sheffield United at Carrow Road.

"People have labelled me a hero and the Messiah, which I think is a bit strong," Walker said. "We've turned things round pretty quickly, I think that's fairly obvious, but there's a long way to go yet. We haven't really achieved anything yet."

Norwich's new-found enthusiasm was illustrated in their 3-2 victory at Birmingham City on Saturday. "The adrenalin is flowing and the games can't come soon enough for us," Rob Newman, the Norwich defender, said.

"Sheffield are a big, awkward side, a bit like Birmingham, but if we can match them physically in the first 20 minutes, our passing game will then hopefully shine through."

Queens Park Rangers have also made progress, after an initially stuttering start to Stewart Houston's managerial career. They drew 1-1 at Sheffield United on Saturday and, tonight, play Ipswich Town at Loftus Road. "It's about time we started producing our away form at home," Simon Barker, the QPR midfielder player, said.

Wolverhampton Wanderers have found similar problems on home soil, having suffered four successive defeats at Molineux. They attempt to rectify matters when they meet Huddersfield Town.

Roy Keane, the Manchester United midfielder player, is included in the Republic of Ireland squad for the World Cup qualifying match against Iceland at Lansdowne Road on November 10. He has missed the last nine internationals.

SQUAD: A Kelly (Sheffield United), S Given (Blackburn Rovers), D Irwin (Manchester United), P Beto (Liverpool), J Viera (Blackburn Rovers), C Fleming (Aston Villa), G Brown (Birmingham City), J Harris (Leeds United), K Cunningham (Wimbledon), S Beaumont (Aston Villa), A Townsend (Aston Villa), R Keane (Manchester United), A McCleish (Preston), J McEneaney (Liverpool), L O'Brien (Liverpool), K O'Neill (Norwich City), J Aldridge (Derby County), A Cole (Norwich City), A Carr (Sheffield United), D Kelly (Sheffield United).

EQUESTRIANISM: UNEXPECTED PROMOTION FOR HAMPSHIRE FARMER

Rowell chosen to succeed Parker

By JENNY MACARTHUR

THE British Horse Trials Group surprisingly appointed Giles Rowell, a former chief d'équipe of the British Young Riders Team, as chairman of the senior three-day event selection committee yesterday.

Rowell, a Hampshire farmer, and director of the Windsor Horse Trials, succeeds the popular Bridget Parker, who had been expected to serve another four years.

Rowell himself had expected to take over from Christopher Schofield as manager of the Young Riders Team, but was recruited to the senior team after what Timothy Taylor, the director of the horse

trials, described as "a flurry of last-minute discussions".

Rowell will also act as chairman of a new international committee that has been set up to help the development and training of British riders at international level.

The first task of this committee, which includes the chairman of the Pony, Junior, and Young Rider Teams, as well as Malcolm Wallace, a former senior chief d'équipe, is to appoint an international manager.

With Mark Phillips, the obvious candidate, now resolved to stay with the United States team, Rowell concedes that this position may be difficult to fill.

"We are not going to hurry into making the appointment," he said yesterday at the Horse Trials Group's annual conference at Lord's. "We may even decide against it if no one suitable can be found."

The Horse Trials Group (HTG) itself is nearing the completion of its own lengthy restructuring, which will see it formally split from the British Horse Society from January 1, 1997.

In what John Tulloch, the outgoing chairman, describes as "the biggest change in the management of our sport since its conception in this country nearly 50 years ago," the HTG will set up on its own as the British Horse Trials

Association (BHTA) under the chairmanship of Michael Allen.

Tulloch becomes president of the newly-constituted British Equestrian Federation.

Although the BHTA will have to leave behind its reserves of nearly £900,000 with the BHS — an organisation that has charitable status — Tulloch is confident that it will become self-financing.

"We will start with nothing but subscriptions, and horse registration fees all come in early in the year, and Badminton, in May, should boost resources," he said. Traditionally, Badminton gives more than £100,000 from its profits to the sport.

SWIMMING: OFFICIAL DISPELS WORRIES ABOUT NEW DIRECTOR'S CREDENTIALS

Sparkes gives Peyrebrune his backing

By CRAIG LORD

THE Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) yesterday defended the appointment of Michael Peyrebrune, a former Scotland international and record-holder, as its director of swimming.

Members of the British Swimming Coaches Association privately expressed concern about Peyrebrune's age, 32, and his lack of experience, both in terms of administration and coaching at international level. Some suggested that applications for the job had not been as strong as had been hoped.

However, David Sparkes,

the chief executive of the ASA, said that there had been 14 "strong" applicants, some from abroad, and that while "some senior people" who had been expected to apply had not done so, "this is a young man's job and I was very impressed with Mike. He's a strong lad. This is not a coaching job."

In terms of experience, Peyrebrune's appointment contrasts with that of Di Bishop, née Wilkinson, 52, a former European champion silver medal-winner, as director of development, a new post.

Her arrival completes the new team under Deryk

Snelling, 64, the first national performance director for Britain, a position that came about as a result of Britain's poor showing at the Barcelona Olympic Games in 1992.

In characteristically confident style, Sparkes said that swimming now had "the strongest governing body in British sport". He added: "If we can't move forward now, and with Lottery funding kicking in, you can all come back and take a serious pot-shot at me."

He confirmed that the job specification for the director had changed since the departure of Paul Bush — who was also in his early thirties when

he assumed the role and has now taken up a post with the Sports Council — to take account of Snelling's arrival.

Peyrebrune's competitive career ended less than five years ago and for the past three years he has headed the swimming programme at Loughborough University.

His efforts have never produced a national team member, senior nor junior, but Sparkes believes Peyrebrune's strengths lie beyond coaching. He is a graduate in the field of sports science, which Sparkes welcomed, given that, "by his own admission, Deryk is not a sports scientist".

BASKETBALL

England wait for Dunkley

THE unexpected absence of Spencer Dunkley threatens England's chances of fielding their strongest ever squad for the European championship against Latvia at Leicester tonight (Nicholas Harling writes).

The 6ft 9in forward, who plays for Linnet, in Leamington, secured the national coach, Les McDermott, last week of his availability, but he had still not appeared when England began the final day of training for the crucial group B fixture. He is believed to have flown to the United States at the weekend to visit his girlfriend, who is ill.

"I haven't a clue if he is coming," McDermott said. "I've done everything humanly possible to make sure that everyone would be here."

England have missed Dunkley ever since he gained the last of his 11 caps in Birmingham 16 months ago, when he was the outstanding member of the squad that progressed from the European qualification round.

The compensation for McDermott is that all the other foreign-born players have joined the squad. Depending on whether Dunkley arrives, McDermott will not decide until shortly before tip-off which two players to exclude from his squad.

ENGLAND (from J. Armes): P. McDermott (Coach), S. Dunkley (Linnet), D. Harling (Leamington), J. Williams (Barnet), R. Austin (Leamington), K. Brown (Leamington), R. Butler (Leamington), J. Higgins (Leamington), J. Smith (Leamington), J. Taylor (Leamington), J. White (Leamington), J. Young (Leamington), J. Ziegler (Leamington).

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Old Trafford, Kick-off, 7.30pm, Live on ITV.

CORRECT SCORE

7/1 MAN. UTD.	1-0	13/2 DRAW	1-1
7/1 MAN. UTD.	2-0	25/1 DRAW	2-2
8/1 MAN. UTD.	3-1	14/1 FENERBAHCE	1-0
11/1 MAN. UTD.	4-0	22/1 FENERBAHCE	2-1

Other scores on request.

FIRST GOALSCORER

9/2 CANTONA (M)	12/1 BOLIC (F)
11/2 SCHOLLES (M)	14/1 TARIK (F)
10/1 BIGGS (M)	14/1 KEANE (M)
11/1 BECKHAM (M)	25/1 IRWIN (M)

Own goals do not count. Other players on request.

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SQUASH

Jackman soars to upper echelon

CASSANDRA JACKMAN has confirmed her breakthrough to the upper echelon of the international game with a 10-8, 9-6, 9-2 victory over the experienced Liz Irving of Australia, in the final of the Carol Weymiller women's open championship in New York (Colin McQuillan writes).

Jackman, 23, the former world junior champion who has hovered near the top of the women's senior game for nearly five years without penetrating the control of New Zealand and Australian players, won the Weymiller memorial event at the Heights Casino Club in Brooklyn, against world-class opposition. In the semi-finals, she defeated the world No 1, Michelle Martin, for the second time in eight days.

"This confirms Cassie's progress into the small dominant player group," David Pearson, the England national coach, said. He has worked with Jackman over the past nine months to improve her court movement



Jackman: new edge

and some aspects of her racket technique.

"She defeated both Liz and Michelle in the world championships in Malaysia earlier this month and to put them both down again in such different playing conditions shows a new psychological edge as well as physical improvement."

Despite regularly reaching quarter and semi-finals in senior tournaments since she won the junior title in Bergen, Norway, in 1991, Jackman had won only six titles before this win. All of those were against low-ranked, mainly British, fields.

In the final of the men's Tournament of Champions at the Heights Casino, Jonathan Power, of Canada, beat Craig Rowland, of Australia, 15-4, 9-15, 15-10, 16-17, 15-9.

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0800 44 40 40

Being inside means a loss of perspective

Just when you thought it might be safe to forget all about Robert Maxwell, along comes *Inside Story*. Maxwell — the Downing Street (BBC) — and it all comes flooding back. He of the preposterous hair, ridiculous voice and astonishing gift had returned to haunt us once again. The cause was the impending fifth anniversary of his death at sea, but the recent edit to legal proceedings against his sons may have helped. Kevin Maxwell may have survived trial by jury, but this was trial by television with Tom Bower as judge, jury and, if he had his way, executioner. As his commentary last night made clear time and again, Bower was determined to exact several million pounds of flesh.

Vasiliy, the film had been assigned with the ordinary skill and dedication, taking full advantage of the fact that Maxwell's towering vanity ensured so much of his life was captured on film. There was black and white footage of the Pergamon days, colour pictures of his celebrity-pocked 60th birthday and, best of all, a wonderful in-house video made by his flunkies.

Robert Maxwell is a multi-faceted individual, it began, "businessman, politician, family man, publisher..." A fondness for the clearly ran in the family. "Soldier, publisher, patriot," it continued in his father's funeral. Funny: how none of them ever mentioned fraudster.

But if still and dedication had gone into the making of the film, so had an element of wickedness. The editing was designed to do maximum damage to Kevin ("we are determined to continue in his traditions" he promised publicly after his father's death) and to cause maximum embarrassment to those who, wittingly or unwittingly, endorsed what Bower

described unarguably as "Maxwell's claim to honesty". Peter Jay, in particular, now the BBC's Economics Editor, will not have enjoyed last night's reminder of a less glorious past.

He will not, however, be alone. Politicians, bankers, accountants, even (heaven forbid) journalists were all swept up by Bower's determination to pin the blame on somebody, to call somebody — anybody — to account.

That determination bordered on obsession and was the one serious weakness to an always compelling film. Bower has been too close to the Maxwell story for too long to be a helpful guide to those coming to it either for the first time or returning to it after a break. Corners were cut, events unexplained and complex financial transactions rendered all but incomprehensible by his need to

the last word belonged to one of the first to cross his path, a former Pergamon employee whose late rate assessment ran down the decades. "I said to him, Mr Maxwell you are the sincerest liar I have ever met."

There must be a link between Maxwell and Robson and Jerome but for the life of me I can't think... no, on second thoughts, I can. Just as the *Daily Mirror* is all the better for being rid of one, so Soldier, Soldier (ITV) appears much improved for being shot of the others. No chance of anybody singing for a start.

Last night's episode was a timely story of sexual harassment and assault in the King's Own Fusiliers. Con O'Neill, although having the dashing looks of an officer, was splendidly menacing as the boorish Colour Sergeant Hicks, while Kate O'Malley did her utmost with a script that was determined to turn a trained soldier into a



Matthew Bond

press on. One minute we were having a decidedly unrevealing chat with a colonel in the KGB, the next, Maxwell was sitting down to dinner with the Princess of Wales. Surely he wasn't involved as well?

Why did nobody stop him? After 70 minutes of self-flagellation (for journalists, Maxwell represents the biggest story ever to have got away) we were really no nearer to answering the question. Perhaps

REVIEW

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BBC1

6.00am BUSINESS BREAKFAST (72030)

7.00 BREAKFAST NEWS (25841)

9.00 BREAKFAST NEWS EXTRA (25842)

9.20 STYLE CHALLENGE (s) (281505) 9.45

CALITY (s) (283747) 10.30 CAN'T

COOK, WON'T COOK (s) (58181)

11.00 NEWS, REGIONAL NEWS and weather

(720305) 11.05 THE REALLY USEFUL

SHOW (s) (742837) 11.45 SMILLIE'S

PEOPLE Jack Charlton (s) (120847)

12.00 NEWS, REGIONAL NEWS and weather

(725145)

12.05pm POLICE RESCUE (s) (577837)

12.55 THE WEATHER SHOW (s) (318765)

1.00 NEWS and weather (73160)

1.30 REGIONAL NEWS (776436)

1.40 NEIGHBOURS (s) (s) (7472158)

2.00 CALL MY BLUFF (s) (5363) 2.30 A

WEEK IN THE COUNTRY (s) (740) 3.00

INCOGNITO (s) (5498)

3.30 ANTS IN YOUR PANTS (s) (585889)

3.50 CHUCKLEVISION (258545) 4.10

GET YOUR OWN BACK (743383) 4.35

THE DEMON HEADMASTER (s) (743417)

5.00 NEWS (721505) 5.10 BLUE PETER (s) (s)

(743436)

5.35 NEIGHBOURS (s) (s) (543856)

6.00 NEWS and weather (769)

6.30 REGIONAL NEWS (721)

7.00 SMALL TALK with Ronnie Corbett

(s) (7470)

7.30 HERE AND NOW Sue Lawton interviews

Diana Dors, the widow fighting for the

right to have a baby from sperm taken

from her husband before he died.

(s) (506)

8.00 HOW DO THEY DO THAT? Eamonn

Holmes and Esther McVey present the

programme with the answers. This week

royal. The polar bear, has become

Hollywood's hottest actor. Noah Kelly

shows how to build a 20-story

skyscraper out of playing cards. Plus,

Eamonn and Esther reveal the secret

behind last week's hair-raising rooftop

drama. (s) (79301)

8.50 POINTS OF VIEW (s) (434063)

9.00 NINE O'CLOCK NEWS with Nicholas

Witchell. (s) (3894)

9.30 BECK The first of a two-part story. Back

has to discover the identity of a middle-

aged man who is found wandering the

streets suffering from memory loss. But

as she gets closer to finding a missing

spouse, his wife decides she does not

want him back. With Amanda Redman

(s) (129363)

10.20 CHILDWATCH PLUS TEN

Esther Rantzen looks back at the



SPORT

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 30 1996

English champions forget domestic troubles and concentrate on European adventure

United looking for control from Cantona

BY PETER BALL

MANCHESTER United stand on the brink of a great adventure. A win over Fenerbahce at Old Trafford tonight will virtually guarantee them a place in the quarter-finals of the European Cup for the first time for 28 years, and end their, and England's, recent embarrassments in the Champions' League.

"It'll be a great night for the players, and a great opportunity for them," Alex Ferguson, the United manager, said. "We wanted to get over the Champions' League stage, because it has been a thorn in our flesh in our last two experiences."

If they win, only victory for Rapid Vienna in Turin tonight can prevent — or at least delay — United's entry into the quarter-finals. But if a win for Rapid seems unlikely, United's success tonight now seems far less assured than when they won 2-0 in Istanbul two weeks ago.

Since then, United have let in 11 goals in two matches. They conceded five against Newcastle United at St James' Park, which could happen to anybody, and six at Southampton, which does not usually happen to lesser sides, let alone the English champions.

Ferguson refused even to discuss the recent failures, but suddenly, with Bruce gone, Pallister struggling with injuries, and forwards queuing up to chip Peter Schmeichel, that proud, unbeaten record in European competitions at Old Trafford, stretching over 40 years and more than 50 games, looks vulnerable.

The suggestion that a Turkish team might succeed where Real Madrid, AC Milan and Juventus have failed seems far-fetched, but the record nearly fell to Galatasaray three years ago, when Cantona's late equaliser saved it.

Much may depend on Cantona again tonight, for he has been even more out of sorts than his colleagues. "I didn't know I could play so badly," he said after United's victory over Liverpool on October 12.

Since then, he has played equally badly, and his temperament, under such tight control last year, has also begun to flare. "It is a good advantage for us if Cantona has problems," Jes Høgh, the Fenerbahce defender, said. "If he doesn't play well, the whole team has problems. They seem to have a problem finding someone to take control of the game."

Nick Barmby, Middlesbrough's England striker, joined Everton for £5.75 million last night. Liverpool and Leeds United were also linked with the 22-year-old after the Middlesbrough manager, Bryan Robson, announced last week he was prepared to receive offers for the former Tottenham player. Barmby joined Middlesbrough from White Hart Lane for £5.25 million in August 1995.

United do not take too much for granted. "Okocha was a major threat in Istanbul. He played in areas we didn't expect, and for the first 15 minutes, until we got it sorted out, they had us stretched all over the place," Ferguson said.

Pallister is rated "very doubtful" by Ferguson and his absence would be a serious blow, although Ronnie Johnsen will be fit to replace him.

There was better news yesterday of Nicky Butt, who did light training. He will have a fitness test at lunchtime. If he does join Roy Keane in the centre of midfield, United will have strong cover in front of their back four.

If Butt fails, it will almost certainly mean Beckham moving in to partner Keane, and a tactical rethink. "If he doesn't make it, I will have to think seriously about playing a different way," Ferguson said.

Giggs definitely will be missing, which will undermine United's attack, but Fenerbahce, too, have fitness doubts about Høgh, Kostadinov and Bulent. If Keane can repeat his breath-taking form of the game against Rapid, and Cantona can recapture his form, United should be overpowered.

"If we qualify for the quarter-finals it will be a tremendously proud moment," Ferguson said. "To get to the next stage, a quarter-final tie in March against Porto or AC Milan, gets the adrenalin going."

On form, that may be a step too far, but Ferguson is already relishing the prospect. "Once we qualify, we can improve," he said. "I think we'll be better in March or April. We're a young side and learning with every game."

"It'll be a great experience for the players, a really fabulous match in prospect. It's the kind of thing we want. People say it's the hardest draw, but it's better being there than not being there." Indeed.



The Ajax players, Musampa, left, and Veldman, in training for the match at Ibrox tonight, where they hope to secure a quarter-final place

Rangers take a chance on Wilson

BY KEVIN MCCARRA

THE European Cup Champions' League match at Ibrox this evening will be one of the rare occasions in which Ajax are made to appear irredeemably staid. The Dutch club has a brash tradition of pitching youngsters into important games, but even they might balk at the notion of giving a teenager his debut on such a night.

Scott Wilson, 19, is to start against Ajax in exactly those circumstances, but his selection owes more to Rangers' desperation than to their audacity. In August his club, in accordance with UEFA requirements, nominated 25 players for use in the six Champions' League matches and 13 of them have since succumbed to injury or suspension.

The rules, however, also

allow fledglings such as Wilson, a centre half, to be used. He will replace Gough, the Rangers captain, who collected his second booking of the tournament during the 4-1 defeat in Amsterdam a fortnight ago.

Walter Smith, the Rangers manager, said: "Like a lot of the younger ones, Scott is in his fourth year at Ibrox and has come out of a very successful youth team. The most common gripe from them is that they don't get enough opportunities to play in the first team. Well, he's got one now."

This, however, is hardly the most favourable moment for him to try his hand at senior football. Rangers have lost their first three games in the Champions' League this season, extending to 11 matches their run of fixtures without a

win in the group stage of the European Cup. Worse still, Wilson will be confronted this evening by Patrick Kluivert. The Ajax forward, whose goal defeated AC Milan in the 1995 final of the tournament, has been poorly protected from his own enthusiastic

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desire to take part this season and earlier attempts to return after a knee injury suffered in the spring proved premature. Kluivert, 20, is making more measured progress in his latest comeback and he has scored on his last two appearances.

Smith, understandably, avoided direct comparison of the resources available to each

club. "With so many players missing," he said, "the tactical part is less important to us. We have to get people together and working to put Ajax under pressure. We did a bit of that at the start of the match in Amsterdam, now we must do more."

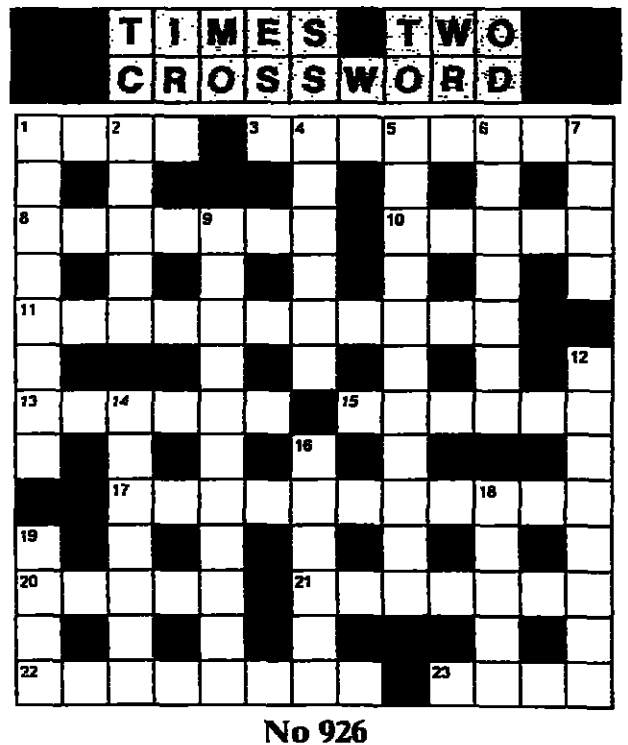
Rangers will be captained by Brian Laudrup, who be-moaned the loss of the sort of quality and experience possessed by Gough and Paul Gascoigne, who, like Alex Cleland and Craig Moore, are suspended. The Dane could only echo his manager's words and hope that some mighty spirit of collective endeavour can be summoned up by a patchwork team.

If all such talk amounts only to wishful thinking, this could be a particularly distressing night for the Scots. Ajax cannot afford to dawdle

when their place in the quarter-finals of the European Cup is still to be claimed. In addition, Louis van Gaal's club has yet to prove that it can survive as a major institution.

The Bosman ruling removed Edgar Davids and Michael Reiziger, without compensation, this summer, and Kluivert and Jan Litmanen may leave on the same basis next year. For now, though, Ajax remain rich in talent and mounted a show of strength by deciding that Dani, who scored twice against Rangers in Amsterdam, did not even merit a place in the party brought to Glasgow.

RANGERS (probable): 3-4-2-1: T. Spink — S. Wilson, G. Paton, J. Bennett — G. Shields, D. McNamee, C. Miller, J. Albert, D. Robertson — P. van Vossen, B. Laudrup.
AJAX (probable): 3-4-2-1: E. van der Sar — M. Senneker, F. de Boer, W. Bergkamp — R. de Boer, J. Vastbom, M. Reiziger, A. Scholten — T. Babangida, P. Kluivert, M. Overmars.



- ACROSS**
- Dismiss; big bag (4)
 - Offer of marriage (8)
 - Roofless (bus) (4-3)
 - Offer one's view (5)
 - Sherlock Holmes roomed in (5,6)
 - Open gallery, porch (6)
 - Fleshy hindquarter (6)
 - Desire-heightening drug (11)
 - Last Greek letter (5)
 - To do with sight (7)
 - Brother (arch) (8)
 - William —, Tallis colleague (4)
- DOWN**
- Winter plaything; disgraced pig (Animal Farm) (6)
 - Verify (5)
 - Estimation (6)
 - Labouring class (Marx) (11)
 - Strong, orig. Cambs., cheese (7)
 - Drink sediment (4)
 - A steam clean (7,4)
 - In irons (8)
 - Seductive look (4,3)
 - Merry (6)
 - Irritating, tickling (5)
 - Cock's crest; honey store (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 925
ACROSS: 6 Twelfth Night, 7 Mangle, 8 Quirky, 9 Shah, 10 Treatise, 12 Fly-paper, 16 Rack, 18 Subdue, 20 Frigid, 21 Freudian slip.
DOWN: 1 Hedge-hop, 2 Effect, 3 Cheque, 4 Mimi, 5 Chokes, 6 Teach, 11 Terrible, 13 Louvre, 14 Precis, 15 Refine, 17 Crisp, 19 Do up.

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD 921
In association with BRITISH MIDLAND
ACROSS: 5 Body language, 8 Primer, 9 Matron, 10 Vice, 12 Stephen, 14 Barrier, 15 Year, 17 Figure, 18 Astute, 20 Incompatible.
DOWN: 1 Abbreviation, 2 Edam, 3 Animate, 4 Multiple, 6 Lure, 7 Globe-trotter, 11 Corduroy, 13 Receipt, 16 Pact, 19 Tube.
1st PRIZE of a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND's domestic or international network is J Copolia, Millford, County Armagh, Northern Ireland.
2nd PRIZE of a return ticket to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND'S domestic network is D J Sheppard, Woodford Green, Essex.
All flights subject to availability.

Takeover could halt Yorkshire move

BY SIMON WILDE

LEEDS rugby league club is to remain at Headingley, rather than relocate to Elland Road, after a takeover yesterday. The new owner of the ground, Paul Caddick, is to make fresh efforts to persuade Yorkshire county cricket club to stay there, rather than move to a new £50 million site near Wakefield.

The directors of Leeds Cricket, Football and Athletic Company rejected a rival bid from Caspian, owners of Leeds United football club, which committed the rugby league team to a move to Elland Road. This proposal

had angered supporters of both clubs, who expressed their opposition with a petition bearing 14,000 signatures.

Caddick is chairman of Leeds rugby union club's development committee and was a former player with Headingley and Castleford. He made it clear yesterday that he wanted Headingley to be a centre for both rugby codes, as well as cricket.

Yorkshire's proposed move has met with fierce opposition, with members intent on calling a public meeting and a ballot to properly weigh feelings. Despite such threats, the club appears to be intent on going ahead, despite doubts

over the likelihood of receiving £28 million from the National Lottery.

This site [Headingley] is just not sustainable without cricket," Caddick said yesterday. "In the past, they [Yorkshire] have been tenants and have had very little financial benefit from the site. Perhaps new arrangements can be made whereby they could gain benefits."

"I'm very firmly of the belief that Yorkshire will not leave Headingley. It is unrealistic to expect public funds to be used to support a £50 million ground for a five-day annual event [a Test match]."

Caddick bought a majority

shareholding in Leeds Cricket, Football and Athletic Club after joining forces with Gary Hetherington, chairman and founder of Sheffield Eagles, who joins Leeds as chief executive, replacing Alf Davies.

There was immediate speculation that Hetherington might attempt to bring in Phil Larder, the Great Britain coach, to whom he is assistant on the South Pacific tour, in an attempt to improve the rugby league club's fortunes.

Leeds had a disappointing first season in the Super League and Caddick has promised funds will be available to strengthen the team.

Time & Tide finishes with a flourish

Edward Gorman

witnesses the
completion of a
remarkable journey

BT
Global Challenge

She may have been the last in, but even the sun, which has been in short supply over the last few days, came out to welcome *Time & Tide* as she made her stately progress to the Yacht Club of Rio de Janeiro yesterday morning, where she received the biggest reception of all the first-leg finishers in the BT Global Challenge.

There were crew volunteers from all the other boats waiting to shout "three cheers" and amongst the first on board to congratulate the skipper, James Hatfield, and his disabled sailors was Boris Webber, whose *Courtaulds International* had finished 2½ hours earlier.

Hatfield's team had fought with Webber's every inch of the way over the last 2,000 miles and had taken the lead twice — for the second, tantalising time within a few miles of the finish — and were desperately disappointed not to have prevailed at the end. However, watching the

Time & Tide crew, which includes amputees, two with cerebral palsy and survivors of cancer, it was impossible not to be moved by their courage and determination not only to sail the Atlantic but to do so on such a heavy and physically demanding boat.

"We've got a lot of friends throughout this fleet," Hatfield said, as one after another, his fellow Challengers shook his hand and patted him on the back. "My crew got used to the fact that they could drive the boat hard and be safe. We always said this was the training leg for us and that's exactly what it was. I'm very proud of them, they've done well."

Courtaulds endured the

worst first leg of the fleet and emerged understandably depressed to have finished in thirteenth place and almost four days behind the leader, *Group 4*, skippered by Mike Golding. A succession of mishaps brought them down after one of the best starts in the Solent. They missed the tide gate at Ushant, when 11 of the crew were incapacitated with seasickness. Several days' later, they blew two spinnakers and broke a pole. Gybing the spinnaker in any sort of breeze after that became a big undertaking, involving dropping the 3,500 sq ft sail, repacking it and then re-hoisting it. This took on average about two hours.

Pat Redman, the crew doc-

tor, who has decided not to continue the race after being seasick for almost the entire leg, spoke bravely about her battle to overcome it and the agonising decision to call it a day. "It's demoralising. It just makes every single thing an effort. It's tough enough at sea to do things half the time. When you are throwing up, it makes it even harder."

After a report in *The Times* about her decision to withdraw last week and Chay Blyth's search for a medically-qualified person to take her place at short notice, three doctors have applied to fill her berth for the Cape Horn leg. The successful candidate, who is expected to be chosen today, will be required to pay the full fee for the leg of £6,800. Although all the skippers have undergone medical training, Blyth likes to have a doctor or paramedic on board each boat.

Photograph, page 46
Capetick in Rio, page 46

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